

ried as their elders to exercise the franchise with intelligence. The vote is given to many elderly people who never enjoyed the advantages of our system of free, secular and compulsory education. The modern child, thanks to our syllabus, is an authority on all the "ologies" under the sun. He knows much more than his parents, and yet we allow the parent to have a vote while the youngster is denied the right to say which candidate he thinks best qualified to advance the best interests of the Dominion. It might be urged that children would vote for candidates who promised to reduce the duty on toys and lollies to the exclusion of other weightier matters, but it is not quite certain that their elders are not sometimes actuated by similar motives.

**Votes for All.**

That much good would follow an extension of the franchise to all who pay taxes, irrespective of age, cannot be gainsaid. Children have interests that call for some sort of consideration at the hands of our representatives. The more serious-minded youngsters might with advantage form a prohibition party to forbid the sale of sweets. When we realise that the sum annually wasted in lollies would provide boots and shoes for every child in the Dominion, we can see at once the urgent need that exists for some kind of legislation. Yet as long as the children are denied representation we cannot expect our legislators to deal with the matter. Even a Tory like Mr. Bonar Law recognises the injustice of limiting the franchise, and in a recent speech he pointed out that if babies had votes their wants would be better provided for and Mr. Lloyd George would come to light with a bill to provide old age pensions for babies. Unemployed and unemployable, what class has better claims on the charity of the State. Now that England has caught us up in the matter of democratic legislation it behoves us to advance still further along the road of reform and see that all who contribute to the revenue are allowed a share in the government of the country.

**"Fivers" for Babies.**

Australia has already done something by taking steps for the introduction of a bill to provide for a gift of £5 to every baby born in the Commonwealth. This is to be given irrespective of any considerations of the social position of the parents, or their wealth, or the particular church in which they may have been married. Indeed, the gift will be given to those who have never been to church at all. This is a strange contrast to our own system of old age pensions. We decline to grant a pension unless the applicant can prove that he has made no provision for old age, and that he has not got any children able and willing to provide for him. We make an applicant answer a lot of questions before we grant him the pension. The Australian scheme gives without asking questions at all. This is a more truly democratic way, as it avoids all class distinctions and pays to rich and poor alike.

**The Norwich Communion Case.**

The Judicial Committee of the House of Lords has unanimously dismissed with costs Canon Thompson's appeal in the Norwich Communion case. Three years ago Canon Thompson refused to administer the Communion to a parishioner who had married his deceased wife's sister. Every Court has decided that the Canon was not justified in his action. The decision of the Courts are in accord with common sense. As long as the law allows such marriages it cannot be argued that the contracting parties are not legally married. The Church of England is a State church, and every person has a claim on her services. To say that people legally married according to the law of England are outside the pale of the national church is to say that the Church is not national. Of course, a difficulty crops up from the fact that the Prayer Book still forbids such marriages, and the civil law is at variance with the ecclesiastical law. But the common sense of the nation will be on the side of the decision of the Privy Council. Individuals may hold any views they like on the marriage question, and the free churches are at liberty to refuse membership on any grounds they please. But for a national church to refuse to recognise the law of the land is to create an impossible situation. If the Church wishes to oppose the laws of the State

it ought to separate from the State. As long as it remains a State Church it must admit the validity of marriage contracted according to the law of the land.

**The Irish Senate.**

The House of Commons, with a strange inconsistency, has refused to agree to an amendment in the Home Rule Bill to establish a single chamber Government in Ireland. The Opposition supported the amendment on the ground that the proposed Senate will be only a sham, and will not be required. Mr. Asquith has never tired of exposing the uselessness of the House of Lords, and one would have supposed that he would have been only too glad to have given to the distressed Isle the many advantages which he has always claimed for a single chamber. If the Senate is to be merely a sham, it seems needless to put the country to the cost and inconvenience of an Upper House. There seems no doubt that the Senate will be merely a drag on the wheels of democracy unless it can be shorn of all power like the House of Lords. If it opposes the will of the people it will have to go, and it might as well go first as last. If it merely echoes the will of the Lower House, it can serve no really useful end, and will be merely an ornament. In any case the decision to have a Senate is not in keeping with the professed policy of the great Liberal party.

**The Public and Prices.**

At a meeting of the Provincial Executive of the Auckland Farmers' Union the question was discussed of the need that existed for the public generally, and farmers particularly, having some say in the awards of the Arbitration Court. Those who favoured the proposal that the public ought to be represented at sittings of the Court pointed out that the increase of wages awarded came out of the pockets of the public, and not out of the pockets of the employers. In the majority of cases this is undoubtedly true. The worker gets an increase, the employer raises the price of his goods, often with an ample margin to cover him against all contingencies, and the retailer raises his price, with a little added to pay him for the trouble of revising his price list. But it is hard to see how the general public could be represented. That vague entity known as the public, is generally expected to pay and look pleasant on all and every occasion. A coal strike may leave the householder without fires, a transport strike may leave paterfamilias without his favourite brand of tobacco or his most cherished magazines, but he is not supposed to do anything more active in the matter than writing to the paper about labour troubles in general. The day may come when the long-suffering public may form a seab union of its own, and then the strike agitator will find that he has hit up against something a little more active than the submissive workers who are under the heel of the federation. The public may be a bit of an ass, but when an ass kicks it takes a good rider to hold on.

**The Father of Auckland.**

The death of Sir John Logan Campbell will be felt throughout the Dominion as a national loss, but in Auckland the loss will also be felt as a personal one. For he endeared himself to all Aucklanders by the unflinching interest he took in all that pertained to the welfare of the city and province. His generosity was unbounded. The magnificent gift of Cornwall Park is the best known of his benefactions, but it was by no means the only one. He was equally generous in his private charities. Sir John filled every public post, and filled them with distinction. He was identified with the first mercantile business established in Auckland. The history of his life is the history of the city. Words cannot add to his fame, nor could words be found adequate to describe the affection and esteem in which he was universally held. We can only say of him what Dean Stanley said of Charles Kingsley: "The torch has fallen from his hand. It is for us, for you, to hand it down undimmed to the generations yet to come."

Mrs. Sulzth.—I wonder what's come over Harry? Instead of being cross, as usual, he started off happy and whistling like a bird this morning.  
Nora (a new girl)—It's my fault, mum. I got the wrong package and gave him bird-seed for breakfast-feed.

**Lord Haldane.**

**The Bond of Union Between England and Germany.**

THAT impending war between Germany and Great Britain, which looms so direly athwart the journalistic horizons of London and Berlin, seemed for the moment to become remote and unthinkable when Lord Haldane received from the hands of Emperor William recently a bronze effigy of himself. All Berlin, the despatches tell us, was agog. Was disarmament about to cease to be a dream? Inspired organs proclaimed a new peace, and the Berlin "Post" suggested, amid enthusiasm, that it be called by the name of Haldane. His Lordship, adds the German daily, is a Minister of War at home but an angel of peace abroad. The Hague, it opens, wears its laurels sheepishly when beholding his Lordship's brow. The explanation of this wonder is found in the renown of Lord Haldane as interpreter of the German spirit to the

famous old Scottish family, the Haldanes of Gleneagles. They early began intermarrying with the nobility of Caledonia. The ancestral hall held a library of philosophy when the surrounding glens rang with shouts of the huntsman. Richard was a deep thinker at the age of six. He could read Aristotle in Greek when he was nine, becoming a Platonist at ten. As a lad in Edinburgh, the city of his birth, he devoured metaphysics. At his graduation from the university he took first honours in the German philosophy he loves. Not satisfied with that, he crossed over to Göttingen and absorbed more. Thus it comes that he can quote Hegel, Fichte, and Schopenhauer by the chapter from memory. He might resist Germany, says one admirer, but he always surrenders to Germanism. Having made Germany his intellectual home, Lord Haldane, to follow our authority, dreams with Hoffman just as he



LORD HALDANE.

British lion. No other Briton is held in such high esteem in the realm of the Hohenzollern. Here is a man who comprehends German literature, German philosophy, German manners, are all so many open books to him. His appreciations of the intellectual conquests of the nation miscalled an armed camp are devoured hungrily from Bremen to the Russian frontiers by the thousands of copies. The life and the career of Haldane are studied like algebra and admired like Homer. The eulogy he receives from the "Vossische Zeitung" actually comforts the London "Times." To the latter this man is the original discoverer of that new, strange Germany which began when William II. proclaimed the future of his realm to be on the water. Haldane is the hero of the hour to a pair of puissant powers. It is at the age of two that Richard Burdon Haldane emerges with the personality of the type so dear to students of his Germanic career. His nurse happened then to discover the future link between British culture and the German mind busily shaping a pile of dirt in the garden. "If God," he explained, "made a man out of the dust of the earth, why shouldn't I?" This philosophical speculation of temperament is derived, according to the London "Mail," from the

doubts with Hegel. One can not visit his beautiful home in London—where he has lived the bachelor life so many years—without realizing, says a writer in "The Pall Mall Magazine," that Germany has become to Haldane what India was to Warren Hastings. There is a distinguished trio in British public life, explains a writer in London "Public Opinion," who, like the three graces, can not be thought of apart. He who thinks of one must remember the rest. The three are Lord Rosebery, Lord Haldane, and Mr. Asquith. Haldane's principal distinction at present, besides his post at the head of the War Office, is the position he holds as the living link binding Germany and Britain in human bonds of peace. He had other distinctions in his earlier years. "He won them much earlier than even the most successful usually do, unless they happen to have all the accidents of birth, as his fellow Scot had, to whom he was long first lieutenant. When your eyes rest upon Lord Haldane's soft, comfortable, plump figure and plump hands, and behold his comfortable pose and general air of suave self-complacency as he addresses the court of a public meeting, or acts as the superior,

Continued on page 51.