

## PROPOSED REFORM OF HOUSE OF LORDS

Great Feature of Special Committee's Report is Limitation Of Right to Legislate.

PEERS MAY ELECT 200 PEERS

Aim is to Bring Into Upper Chamber Those Who Have Proven Wise and Capable Leaders of Men.

London, Dec. 27.—Various proposals have from time to time been made with a view to reform of the constitution of the house of lords, but the report of the select committee recently presented embodies the first scheme that has come before the house and the country as the result of mature deliberation by a body of peers who may be fairly regarded as representative of the opinion of the house at large. It is true that the government declined the attempt to modernize and strengthen the house of lords, and it is matter for regret that the lord chancellor, Lord Crewe, and Lord Morley did not take part in the deliberations of the committee. Still, it cannot be said that the Liberal party was not tolerably represented in a body which contained Lord Selby, Lord Courtney of Penwith and Lord Ribblesdale, and which had for its chairman Lord Rosebery, whose directing hand may be traced on every page of the report. This committee was appointed upon the failure of Lord Newton's bill last year, and it is no small tribute to the persistence of the indefatigable advocate of reform that the recommendations of the committee bear a very close resemblance to the provisions of his bill.

### PRINCIPLE OF SCHEME.

It is interesting to note that what may be called the main principle of the scheme now formulated—the limitation of the hereditary right to legislate—carried the assent of the whole committee, with the solitary exception of Lord Halsbury. That fact goes far to show that the subject is regarded by the peers from a public standpoint, and that they are not unduly biased by the prejudices supposed to belong to their class. The delegation of the powers of the peerage to elect representatives was accepted by all sections of the committee, but there were at first differences of view as to the other elements to be added to the representative peers. Eventually, however, the most liberal of these opinions was adopted by the committee, which proceeded upon the view of "those who, while accepting the inclusion of delegates from the hereditary peerage, and possibly of representatives from without, were strongly of opinion that qualification should be the main test for admission to the reformed house of lords, holding that the best guarantee for the satisfactory performance of legislative duties lay in the experience of affairs derived from the tenure of high and responsible office, or from active service in public life."

The aim is to bring into the house of lords as many men as possible who have proved themselves wise and capable leaders of men, and to secure through the representative peers that continuity of tradition and that position within the constitution which are exceedingly difficult to secure for a completely novel creation. It is proposed



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accordingly that 200 peers shall be chosen by the whole body of peers, whether of England, Ireland, Scotland or the United Kingdom, to represent them in the house of lords. It is suggested that the election should be by a sort of cumulative vote, each hereditary peer having as many votes as there are representatives, and being at liberty to divide them as he pleases. It is not believed that the arrangement would lead to the party wirepulling which was suggested as a possible objection. These representative peers would sit for the duration of a parliament, not for life; so that there would be an opportunity to vary the representative element in both houses with equal frequency. This arrangement does not touch the prerogative of the crown to create hereditary peers, but it merely reduces the number of hereditary peers entitled to legislate, and throws upon each peer the burden of proving himself in one way or another worthy to bear the higher title of a lord of parliament. Then there is a long list of qualifications enabling peers to sit as of right without election. They may be summarized as intended to open a wide door to personal merit or distinction in the public service. The two archbishops are to sit by right during their tenure of their sees, but the rest of the episcopate are to choose eight of their number to represent them. Finally there are to be life peers, not exceeding 40 in number, not more than four to be created in any one year. Their creation gives the opportunity to bring to the service of the country men of ability who do not meet the conditions of admission to the house previously indicated. The committee desire to add official representatives of the great dominions of the crown to the house, but prefer to leave mainly to the governments of these countries themselves the manner in which any such arrangement should be carried out.

**MAKE-UP OF LORDS.**  
It is computed that under this scheme the house of lords would consist of something under 400 members, made up thus: Three peers of the blood royal, 200 representative peers elected for one parliament, 120 qualified hereditary peers, 10 spiritual peers, five lords of appeal in ordinary and life peers gradually brought up to, but not exceeding, 40. The house of lords would thus be

reduced to about two-thirds of its present nominal strength. Only one-half of it would represent the hereditary principle pure and simple, and that half would be placed under conditions tending to stimulate reliance upon something more than hereditary right. The other half of the house would represent personal merit, character, distinction, or eminent public services, whether in an official or a non-official capacity. The committee believe that in this way not only would the best men in the country be brought together to give their attention to legislation, but that at the same time there would be a great equalizing of party influences. The committee does not aim at any mechanical adjustment of the majority in the house of lords to correspond with that in the house of commons, but they desire that the government of the day should always have a substantial following in the house of lords. Friction would probably be greatly reduced by the cumulative effect of the changes proposed. The committee was tempted to go further and seek a mode of solving the difficulty of a possible deadlock by a referendum or otherwise, but they were so equally divided upon that point that they agreed to regard it as beyond the limits imposed by their order of reference.

From the foregoing it may be seen that the question of the reform of the house of lords has now reached a stage at which serious action has become possible.

### BUTLER OF COLUMBIA MAY SUCCEED DR. ELIOT

New York, Dec. 2.—A report was current among prominent Harvard alumni in this city today that James S. Storrow was to become the immediate successor to Dr. Charles W. Eliot as president of that university to be succeeded himself within a few months by Nicholas Murray Butler, now president of Columbia. This report, however, is a leading member of the Boston banking firm of Lee, Higginson & Co. If the report is correct his expressed disinclination to accept the Harvard presidency may have been overcome, it is said, by the plan of making his incumbency of the office temporary and having Dr. Butler succeed him within a year.

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### MAID OF ORLEANS SAID TO HAVE APPEARED TO POPE

Rome, Dec. 27.—The Italia publishes a report, which has caused a sensation in ecclesiastical circles, that Joan of Arc recently appeared in a vision to the pope and addressed him solemn words of encouragement, exhorting him to continue his present policy, which she promised would shortly be crowned with triumph. It was while the pope was engaged in devout prayer and meditation in his private oratory, immediately after the ceremony of reading the decree of beatification, that the apparition is said to have appeared. It was noticed that when the pope came out of the oratory he was very pale and for several days maintained a marked silence.

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## FOUR NAVAJO INDIANS KILLED

Victims Were Two Squaws, a  
Buck and a Boy, and Buck  
Badly Wounded.

WAS JUST A FAMILY QUARREL.

Trouble Occurred Christmas Eve at  
Mouth of McElmo Canyon, Near  
Aneth, Utah.

Durango, Colo., Dec. 26.—On Christmas eve a battle between members of two families of Navajo Indians occurred, at the camp located at the mouth of McElmo canyon, near Aneth, Utah, and 25 miles southwest of Cortez, Colo., according to advices from the latter place received late tonight. Two squaws, an Indian buck and one Indian boy were killed and another Indian buck was seriously injured. The trouble was purely domestic and no whites were concerned in the affray.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Four Indians were killed and one injured at the reservation located at Aneth, Utah, according to advices received by the bureau of Indian affairs today from Supt. Shelton of the Ship Rock Indian agency located in the northwestern portion of New Mexico. Accompanied by a physician, Supt. Shelton has left for the scene of the trouble, the nature of which is as yet unknown to officials of the Indian affairs bureau.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 26.—The Aneth, Utah, Indian reservation, where, according to a Washington, D. C., dispatch, four Indians were killed and one injured, is located in Utah just north of the Navajo Indian reservation and near the Colorado line. The place is remote from telegraph centers and at the local United States army division headquarters, this city, it is reported that nothing has been heard there of the killing.

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### INSCRIPTIONS ON ETRUSCAN TOMBS DECIPHERED

Stanford University, Cal., Dec. 27.—A discovery which will have important results in the world of science has been made public by Prof. George Hempl, professor of philology of Stanford, in the course of a lecture before the Standard Philological association. The key to the ancient inscriptions on Etruscan tombs and columns, so long a mystery to archeologists, has been discovered by Stanford's professor of philology, according to the statement made by him.

Prof. Hempl became widely known some time ago by solving the inscription on German runes. He declared that his find will have far-reaching results upon ancient Italian history and upon the disputed facts of Latin grammar and etymology. But 50 inscriptions out of a mass of 8,000 have thus far been deciphered by him, but the translation of these, he said, had been enough to show that the history of



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Italy, as written at present, must be greatly modified when his work is completed. The popular theory that the Etruscans and Romans were entirely different peoples is entirely exploded by this discovery of Prof. Hempl. As made clear by him, the languages of these neighboring nations was alike in all important respects save its writing, and the conclusion he draws is that the two nations sprang from the same race. Dr. Hempl showed that the Etruscans were the outgrowth of the Trojans after the fall of Troy, and thus, in an indirect manner, the story of Virgil's Aeneid receives scientific corroboration. In discussing the remarkable discovery made by Prof. Hempl, Dr. Jordan, president of Stanford university, said:

"Dr. Hempl has made a most important discovery. The deciphering of these Etruscan inscriptions overturns the popular idea that there is no connection between the Romans and the Etruscans. Dr. Hempl, with his key to the Etruscan inscriptions, will make enormous changes in our views of the ancient history of Rome and Greece."

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### RUEF'S ATTORNEY.

Talks About Improper Methods of Securing Convictions.

New Orleans, Dec. 27.—"There are going to be some developments even more surprising than the original graft charges," declared Henry Ruef, senior counsel for Abraham Ruef, in commenting tonight on the latter's recent trial in San Francisco. The attorney said there would be sensational disclosures in connection with what he declared were improper methods to secure convictions.

Mr. Ruef passed today in New Orleans on his way to Washington to argue a case before the United States supreme court.

### PLANNING DEMONSTRATION FOR LABOR LEADERS

New York, Dec. 17.—Planning a demonstration of 200,000 laboring men next Sunday in protest against jail sentences imposed upon Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, the Central Federated union today appointed a committee to make arrangements and adopt resolutions or which a copy was sent to President Roosevelt.

The executive committee announced it had sent telegrams to the defendants assuring them that every legal means would be utilized to prevent their imprisonment. It was also decided that action by any labor union looking for pardon for the men sentenced should be discouraged, the federated union taking the position that no crime had been committed and it will not be proper to seek pardon.

### MODERN SOCIETY.

Its Influence on Family Life to be Discussed by Sociological Society.

Atlantic City, Dec. 27.—The influence of modern society on family life will be discussed by the American Sociological society which holds its third annual meeting here this week in conjunction with the twenty-first annual meeting of the American Economic association, the American Statistical association and the American Association for Labor Legislation.

The sociological society's program is filled with subjects pertaining to the family under present day conditions.

The economic side will come in for a large share of attention and the moral side will also be discussed, including the subject of marriage and divorce.

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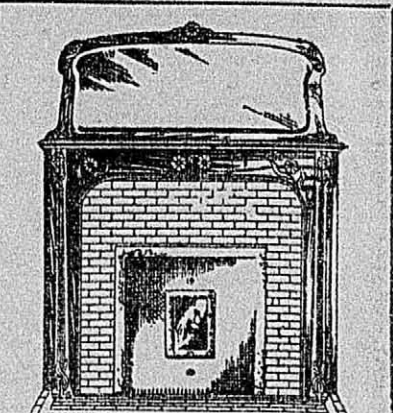
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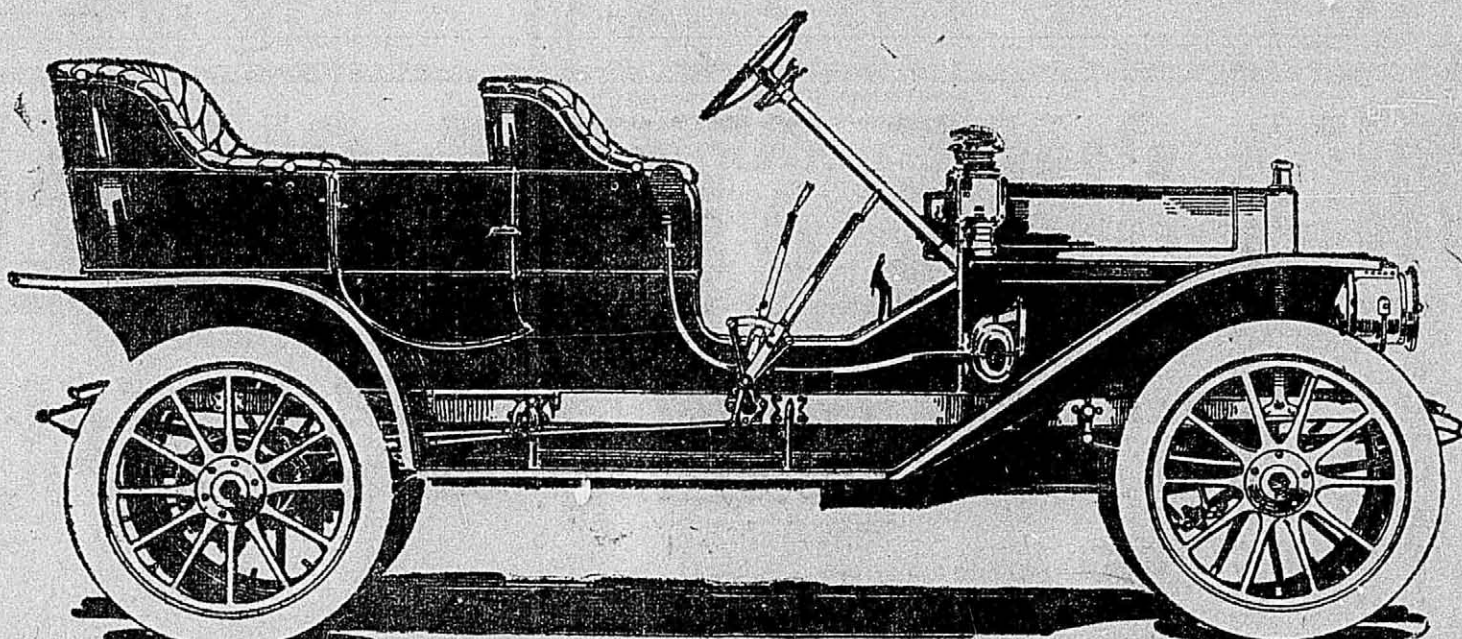
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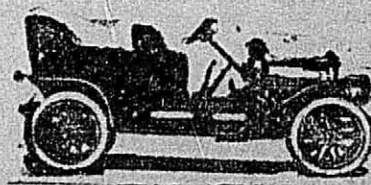
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