

questions, irrespective of whether a new Government has or has not at that moment assumed office". There is nothing to prevent the House of Commons, if it chooses, he adds "from sending to the Crown an address in reply to the gracious speech, which if it expresses want of confidence in His Majesty's present Ministers, also records its repudiation of Socialism". In conclusion Mr. Churchill says "watching a long series of disastrous and purposeless party rallies, which have marked and are still marking the progressive degeneration of our affairs, I feel bound to place on record a warning of the dangers into which we are drifting and to point out a means whereby, in accordance with the wish of the great majority of electors and in full harmony with the spirit of the constitution, these dangers can, even at the eleventh hour, be avoided."

London, Jan. 18th.—Although Mr. Churchill's open letter, in which he says the advent of a Socialist Government will be a "serious national misfortune," at the same time deploring a Liberal Labourite agreement, receives much attention from the newspapers this morning, it cannot judging from their comments, be regarded as a political bombshell that threatens to alter the outlook. Mr. Churchill, defeated at the recent elections, is still a very prominent member of the Liberal Party and his intervention is manifestly unwelcome to the loyal supporters of Mr. Asquith while it is naturally greeted with the utmost satisfaction by the anti-Labourites. However, the regrets of the former and the gratification of the latter are modified by a feeling that the letter comes too late. One speculation that will certainly arise from its publication is whether Mr. Churchill is preparing the way to re-affiliate himself with the Conservatives whom he left in 1905. The possibility of his taking such a step has often been the subject of gossip in interested quarters. The Daily Mail recalls that when he was recently approached on the subject of re-entering Parliament Mr. Churchill was quoted as saying that as long as the issue was not protection versus free trade, he would under no circumstances stand against a conservative candidate anywhere. The Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail, both strong opponents of the Labour administration and of Asquithian support of labour's aspirations, warmly commend the letter asserting that no one hitherto has presented so admirable the gravity of the situation before the country as does Mr. Churchill. These newspapers also think the letter shows there is still one man in Great Britain who has a genuine capacity for leadership. The Liberal press comments with surprise at this eruption by a prominent Liberal into the situation planned and ordered by his nominal leader Mr. Asquith. The Daily Chronicle expresses regret and concern adding "per-

haps the fairest comment would be to say that in his absorption with tactics of the situation Mr. Churchill seems perhaps to have missed its realities." The Westminster Gazette considers the letter very remarkable, but that "the panic fears of a labour Government he expresses will leave the Liberals generally mentally undisturbed. His letter in reality is a plea for union with the Conservative forces and any such union would be suicidal to liberalism."

London, Jan. 18th.—In the resumption of the debate on the speech from the Throne today Mr. Thomas, the Railwaymen's Secretary alluding briefly to international connections of the British Labour Party. He said that party did not regret and was not going to apologize for its association with the internationalists. Dealing with Great Britain's foreign policy, Mr. Thomas said "We have been asked how we are going to deal with France. God forbid that any of our words should be construed that we are anxious to break with France or talk about war." "However" he added "real friendship did not consist in pretending that all was well, when all was not." He condemned France's attitude on the reparations question and said that when France was following the wrong path and heading for disaster, she ought to be told so. He declared that because of the British Government's vacillating foreign policy, France was treating the former with contempt. Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, following Mr. Thomas, struck a note of defiance to the Liberals who propose supporting Labour on the vote of no confidence on Monday. Mr. Churchill said to the Liberals. We are asking nothing from you. We make no bargain with you. We point out to you that your choice is between a party whose programme you proclaim to be a rehash of your own and a party which stands to destroy liberalism and all it stands for. You will vote for Socialism on Monday and it will be on your own heads if you are ground to pieces later on."

Barbados, Jan. 19th.—Mr. John R. Bovell, I. S. O. Director of Agriculture, the Barbados delegate to the Agricultural Conference at Jamaica, sailed for that island yesterday afternoon by the S. S. Coronado.

London, Jan. 19th.—Mr. Chamberlain begged Labour not to dismiss hastily the proposals in connection with the Imperial preference out of any pedantic theory. He emphasized the enormous importance of Dominion trade, instancing how preference had stimulated Great Britain's trade with Australia. Labour must remember, he said, that the preference proposals were in the nature of a moral gesture and that the direction in which that gesture was made might affect very seriously the future attitude of the Dominions toward Great Britain. Mr.

Thomas intervened to ask if the Conservatives had dropped protection. Mr. Chamberlain replied that it was obvious from the King's speech that protection would not be a part of the programme of the present Government, if it continued in power.

London, Jan. 18th.—In connection with his declaration that Labour was not going to apologize for its association with Internationalists, Mr. Thomas recalled that after the war a conference was held in which representatives of all the belligerent nations took part and that each delegate had spoken of the suffering and misery his country experienced. From that date, Mr. Thomas declared, they had resolved to spare no efforts which could give to the world and to civilization a common organization which would bring people together and help them understand each other, he said the more difficult it would be for other people to plunge them into war.

London, Jan. 18th.—The most delighted person in the House of Commons yesterday, when Mr. Asquith made his triumphant speech, was his almost equally famous wife, who could scarcely restrain her delight and with difficulty held back her applause as the ex-Premier made his telling points. Mrs. Asquith was seated in the place in the ladies gallery, which, nearly half a century ago, used to be occupied by Mrs. Gladstone when her celebrated husband made his great orations. Among those who also listened with eager interest to Mr. Asquith were the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, both of whom showed amused appreciation at the sallies of the man who was Britain's Prime Minister when war broke out. Mr. Asquith's speech was admitted to be one of the finest he has ever delivered and it certainly had the effect of converting any doubting Liberals who were elected after a straight fight at the polls against Labour men, but who almost to a man will vote on Monday evening with Labour. The number of the Liberals who will vote with their party has now dwindled to about five and this is largely due to Mr. Asquith's efforts.

London, Jan. 18th.—The Duchess of Athol, one of the newly elected women members of the House of Commons, made what was generally considered an auspicious debut as a debater on the floor of the House today. Her maiden speech referred mainly to the Government's professed intention to amend the law relating to maintenance and separation orders, in marital cases, and other measures of special interest to women. The Duchess urged the need for accelerating the naval shipbuilding programme, especially in view of the depression in the shipbuilding trade. She said she longed, however, to see wars cease throughout the world and would infinitely rather see expenditures on merchant shipping, than on ships of war.