

DOMESTIC QUESTIONS BEFORE PARLIAMENT

Several Are of Great Moment and Have Their Counter Part in America

Three great domestic questions are likely to engage the attention of the present session of the British Parliament, and not one of them but will find its echo in the discussions in the American Congress.

Great Britain is debating what to do with the coal-mine situation; to what extent shall government control the production and sale of electricity; and how to aid agriculture.

In Parliament there will be a clamor for more drastic control by the government of power and light; nationalization of coal mines is certain to find supporters; subsidy of agriculture will be urged.

And all these things in one form or another we shall hear from Washington.

The Manchester Guardian (Liberal), discussing agricultural reform and the attitude of the Baldwin government, has this interesting paragraph:

"The same difference arises over the other great problem with which the government proposes to deal. The government will have nothing to do with any scheme of agricultural reform which in any way weakens the absolute rights of private ownership. Good cultivation and adequate wages are not, in the government's view, a paramount necessity. The maintenance of the right to farm badly is."

Well, why shouldn't the British government, or any other government maintain "the right to farm badly"? Or to publish a magazine badly? Or run a factory or a shop badly?

Is it the function of government to prevent people from doing things badly? Are we all to farm alike in order that no one shall farm badly? And if government so brings it about that none shall farm badly, will any one farm well?

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RUBBER GROWING IN PHILIPPINES

Gov. General Wood of These Islands Thinks It Feasible; His Statement

General Leonard A. Wood said in a recent statement: "I am perfectly confident that rubber can be as successfully grown in the Philippines as coconuts and will greatly benefit the people. There is no reason to believe Philippine farmers cannot grow it as profitably and successfully as the natives of Sumatra and Borneo."

It would be a fine thing if Uncle Sam could develop his own rubber plantation in the Philippines and so protect us from the great rubber monopoly. But if rubber can be grown there with profit to the natives themselves and to America, this will furnish another reason to a great many of our professional shouters, why the Filipinos should be given their freedom at once.

For there are a great many people, thinking themselves good citizens, who seem to consider it a crime for Americans to succeed anywhere, especially when their doing well will conflict with the interests of some European nation. They of course want to see the Filipinos well, but not through American effort and at the same time to the enhancement of American profit. From their point of view the natives would be better off starving to death in "Freedom" than waxing prosperous under American rule, especially if American business interests might be sharing in the prosperity.

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Scientific progress along chemical lines in the next fifty years will revolutionize our ways of living, in the opinion of Charles F. Kettering, inventor of the first electrical starter for automobiles and a forward-looking thinker.

"Heretofore," Mr. Kettering is quoted in Nation's Business magazine as saying, "we have been chiefly concerned with improving transportation and communication — automobiles, aeroplanes, radio. But we shall soon find better ways to supply even more fundamental needs, such as food. In fifty years perhaps a cow will be a museum piece. We shall make our milk and beefsteaks in the laboratory. Only the best farm lands will be used. When that time comes the equatorial regions will have a boom, because we shall make much use of solar rays and naturally must go where the sun shines most. In our best farming sections here in the United States, it must be remembered, most of our crop growing is done in only two months of the year—May and June."

"What will be the next great improvement in automobiles?" Kettering was asked. "Better lubrication?"

"Oh," he replied, "we shall hit on some plan for making all lubrication unnecessary."

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