

protection campaign in England the argument has sometimes been made that with a tariff system the income tax, which is now a shilling in the pound, would tend to disappear. The government report shows, however, that four protectionist states—Prussia, Austria, Italy and Spain—all find the income tax very useful. In Prussia the tax on an income of \$25,000 would be \$1,250 a year, which is the same that it would be in England at the present time. The Prussian rate is, however, fixed, while the English tax is raised or lowered in accordance with the needs of the treasury. In Italy and Austria the rate on certain classes of incomes is as high as 20 per cent. The different countries vary greatly with reference to the limitations of the tax and the exemptions they allow. In England incomes under \$800 are exempt, in Prussia the minimum income taxed is \$225, in Austria \$250, in Spain \$225, in Holland \$270 and in Saxony \$100. The tax is graduated in proportion to the size of the income in all countries, but in varying degree. In England, for instance, an income of \$3,500 pays the maximum rate, in Prussia, the income must be \$25,000 to pay the maximum rate, and in Baden and Austria no income under \$50,000 pays the maximum. Taking the whole system of exemptions and graduation into account, the average result is that the tax ranges from six-tenths of 1 per cent on a laborer's income to about 5 per cent on the income of the richest classes. In the United States the individual states are free to tax incomes so far as law goes, but in practice they must be very chary of what they do because of the ease with which the taxpayer can move from one state to another."

IT HAS BEEN generally supposed that the term "dark horse" is of American origin, but the St. Louis Post-Dispatch says: "Thackeray used it in his 'Adventures of Phillip' before it became current in this country, and in exactly the same sense as we employ it. 'Well, bless my soul!' Phillip is made to say, referring to some mysterious candidate for the house of commons, 'he can't mean me. Who is the dark horse he has in his stable?'"

WILLIAM K. REDMOND, M. P., one of the secretaries of the Irish party, and brother of John Redmond, the Irish leader of the House of Commons, is in America. Speaking to a representative of the Chicago Record-Herald Mr. Redmond predicted the dissolution of parliament during the next few months, the overthrow of the Balfour ministry and the installation of a liberal administration when the parties "go to the country."

THE PRESENT position of political affairs in England is very unusual, and in the language of Mr. Redmond, "almost unique." Mr. Redmond says: "The government of Mr. Balfour stands practically condemned in parliament as well as in the country, and yet it adopts the unusual course of clinging to office, although it is perfectly clear that the general sense of the people demands an appeal to the electors. A short time ago the government actually was beaten on a matter of considerable importance in the house of commons. The vote was taken on the initiative of the Irish party. It was a clear defeat, and everybody expected the government would take the usual course of resigning. Instead of this, however, it announced the intention of holding on to office. This attitude, strictly speaking, is unconstitutional, and has aroused a very bitter feeling among the electors. Again, the government proposed a most important and far-reaching change in the representation of the people—a change which involved the reduction of the Irish members in the British parliament by no less than twenty-two. This important matter was ruled out of order on the suggestion of the Irish party, and again the government suffered a severe defeat and was obliged to abandon the scheme. In addition to these defeats and humiliations in parliament the Balfour government has been defeated in almost every by-election (elections to fill vacancies) which has taken place during the last few years. Even great conservative strongholds like Brighton and portions of the city of London have been captured by the liberal opponents of the present government. Yet in the face of all these facts, Mr. Balfour clings to power, and in doing so presents a most humiliating spectacle."

IN THE OPINION of this eminent Irishman, there can be no doubt that when the election comes the present ministers, responsible for the failures and vast expenditures involved in the Boer war will be defeated. Mr. Redmond says: "Mr. Balfour's excuse for not resigning, has been

that only his government could conduct negotiations with Japan for a renewal of the treaty between that country and England. This, of course, is a mere pretext and an attempt to have the blunders of the Boer war forgotten in the glamour of what is regarded as the great achievement of an alliance with victorious Japan. The British people, however, have not forgotten how their fingers were burned in South Africa, and a great many of them also are doubtful as to the policy of strengthening and encouraging an Asiatic power which may at any time swoop down on the commonwealth of Australia." Regarding his reference to the blunders of the Boer war, Mr. Redmond said that the mismanagement of affairs that caused the British forces to suffer many defeats in the early campaigns and the piling up of a tax of £250,000,000 was not the only reason for lingering resentment among the people, but that South Africa since the war has been a disappointment. It was thought, he said, that immigration to South Africa would be stimulated. Such, however, has not been the case. The condition of labor in South Africa, he said, is worse off than it ever was, wages being lower and the importation of tens of thousands of Chinese coolies driving the white laborers away. The only ones who have benefited from the war, Mr. Redmond said, are the mine owners, many of whom are foreigners. In other respects, he declared, South Africa was better off under President Kruger.

CHAMBERLAIN'S SCHEME of protection, according to Mr. Redmond, has also helped to bring the present government into deep discredit, because it is understood that that scheme involves the taxation of the food stuffs of the people. Mr. Redmond says: "The septennial act prevails in England, and this government is five years in existence. It might by law live for two years more, but when parliament is dissolved and an election comes, as it may this fall, in all probability it will see a liberal administration installed in office. This, of course, will be much to the advantage of the Irish nationalist party, for the official liberal leaders are pledged to deal with the questions of Irish self-government on the lines of the late Mr. Gladstone. It is true Lord Rosebery and some other liberals have forsaken home rule, but they are without much influence in their party. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the liberal leader in the commons, and Lord Spencer, the liberal leader in the lords, are both pledged to deal with home rule, and one of these, in all probability, will be the next prime minister. The Irish party has contributed greatly to the overthrow of the present government. It is its duty to oppose all governments that will not deal with the supreme question for Ireland—national self-government. We have won important reforms for Ireland from both liberals and conservatives, but we are attached to neither of these parties and are acting upon the independent lines laid down by Charles Stuart Parnell. It will be seen what a great force the independent Irish party is in parliament when I say that our number is eighty, and that we are ready, on critical occasions, to throw the full weight of our vote upon whichever side seems most to the advantage of Ireland."

EVIDENTLY THE British government dislikes the power of the Irish vote in parliament, and according to Mr. Redmond this fact is shown by the anxiety to reduce the Irish numbers. He says, however, that they are not anxious to remain in the British parliament provided they are allowed to have a parliament and a government of their own, but until that day comes they will protest against any interference with their numbers. On this point Mr. Redmond says: "The pretext on which the attempt is made to reduce our numbers is that the population of Ireland has fallen to a low ebb, but the population basis never was introduced until our population had fallen low. At the time of the union, on the population basis, we would have been entitled to considerably more than 200 members, but we got 103 only. The English always have answered our demand for home rule by declaring that the union was sacred and could not be touched. When it suits them, however, they are ready to break the union. The Irish would be delighted to see the union broken altogether and an Irish parliament established, but they will not consent to have the union amended under present circumstances, in reference to that part which deals with the representation of Ireland. The whole attempt to interfere with our number is a great compliment to the power of the Irish independent party and the Irish political combination organized by Mr. Parnell twenty-five years ago. There is no doubt we represent the overwhelming majority of the

Irish people. I know that in this country some people think our methods slow, but, after all, at home in Ireland the people are pretty shrewd, and they support and vote for parliamentary representation because, unprepared as they are in other directions, they recognize that independent action on Ireland's part in the British parliament is a most effective weapon."

MR. REDMOND was asked to point out some of the important reforms won by the Irish party. "Well, take the land question alone," he replied. "Broadly, today we are able to say the conditions pertaining to the terrible story of agrarian struggles in Ireland are changed. The land league established by Mr. Davitt and so ably generated by Mr. Parnell demanded that the Irish people should be aided by the state to become the owners of the land they tilled, and that landlordism should be abolished. This demand was furiously opposed. The constitution was suspended in Ireland. Free speech was prohibited, the press interfered with and leaders imprisoned. The end of it all, however, has been that the demand of the land league has been recognized to be just and the land act passed in 1903 recognizes the principle that the Irish farmers should own the soil they till. To that end the British treasury is advancing the money necessary to enable the tenants to buy their homes, the money to be repaid in installments infinitely easier than the perpetual rents formerly paid. This means, of course, practically a revolution. There still may be some trouble in certain districts, and there is no doubt much still to be accomplished; but, broadly speaking, the legislation wrung from the British parliament by the Irish party has destroyed landlordism and is fast making the Irish people the owners of the land they occupy. The great trouble ahead is that in their eagerness to obtain possession of the land the people may be led into paying the landlords too high a price. This might involve them in obligations which in bad times they might be unable to fulfill. The Irish leaders are warning the people not to undertake too heavy obligations and not to make bad bargains."

THE IRISH party also, according to Mr. Redmond, has achieved important reforms in improving the condition of the laboring class and in the obtaining of immediate promise of local self-government. Mr. Redmond concludes: "National self-government remains to be achieved, and I believe this most crowning and necessary reform will follow in due course, provided the Irish race at home and abroad steadfastly adheres to the independent lines laid down by our never-to-be-forgotten leader, Charles Stuart Parnell. The national sentiment of Ireland at the commencement of the twentieth century is stronger than ever. There is a great revival of national sentiment in every direction. Besides the political organization of the United Irish League there is the great movement of the Gallic League for the social regeneration of Ireland. Under the inspiration of the latter movement the Irish language is reviving, Irish industries are being encouraged and a splendid spirit of self-respect and pride of race and country is growing up amongst the Irish people. I don't remember any time when the prospects of Ireland were brighter or when her people were more united, and there is today, happily, a broader and better feeling of toleration amongst men of different religions than ever existed before. Many of the Irish leaders today, as of yore, are Protestants, and the old, bitter feeling of sectarianism between Catholic and Protestant in Ireland, which was fostered by England for her own ends, is giving place to a noble feeling."

REV. JACOB F. KURTZ, a preacher of York, Pa., contemplates, according to the Baltimore Sun, a visit to Washington where he hopes to be able to deliver a "one minute sermon" to President Roosevelt. Mr. Kurtz says he will say nothing to the President except the words of his sermon, and will then retire. The sermon is preached daily about twenty-five times to anyone who will listen. It is as follows: "These words shall be in thine heart and thou shalt talk them when thou risest up in the morning and when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by the way and when thou liest down: 'Love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy soul and thy mind, and thy neighbor as thyself. All things that you would that others would do to you, do you even so to them.' Three musts: 1—You must die. 2—You must go to the judgment. 3—You must meet God's word as your judge. Amen." Kurtz says he will soon visit Philadelphia and then go to Wall street to preach his one-minute sermon.