

We are NOT Crumbling

An Inspiring Talk from 3YA

By Miss Dora West, O.B.E.

Miss Dora West, O.B.E., was a member of the Downing Street Secretariat when Mr. Lloyd George was Prime Minister, and a member of his private secretarial staff in later years. Miss West was also the original first secretary of the League of Nations Union in London. A well-known political speaker at Home, she stood as Liberal candidate for Rotherhithe, London Docks, in the General Election of 1929 in England. Now travelling in this country, Miss West is studying Empire conditions, and learning something of the overseas Dominions.

I WOULD like to explain that I am no high-brow leader of women's movements—the biggest thing I have ever tried to move was a Cabinet Minister or two, as I found them in Downing Street in those difficult years of reconstruction after the War. And that was a full-time job any day, and gave me a taste for trying to take my share in the world's work, as and when I see an opportunity.

To-night I can only give you a brief glimpse of my chief, Mr. Lloyd George—the superman of Europe and the world through six long years of world war, and reconstruction of the mangled map of Europe and our muddled social lives. A vital force in world politics indeed, and do not let anyone be deluded into thinking otherwise, even now. He has a disconcerting habit of confronting critics unexpectedly, and it is illuminating to see how, even when no longer on the Treasury bench, and with a depleted party, none the less the speeches in the House of Commons are made directly to him, rather than to the Government benches—the Father of the House of Commons, he is still the spearhead of the House to-day.

A man of dynamic energy and driving force—without a doubt he has some hidden secret source of psychic energy within, that is not given to ordinary mortals. I have seen him at election time wear down to exhaustion point men half his age, while he remained fresh as paint and full of vim.

When he comes into a room he seems to radiate a vital energy, felt by everyone, friend and foe alike, who comes into contact with him. He is a man vividly alive

in every fibre of his being. His lion head of hair shows it—it shines in the flash and the twinkle of his

eye. He affects one like a strong tonic or sea breeze, and he has great personal charm, very hard to resist, as even his keenest political opponents know, so much so that at times they definitely desire to avoid a personal contact, lest he should sway them against their will!

I have watched with keen interest the effect of Mr. Lloyd G. upon a crowd, and have heard him address many meetings, sometimes to 10,000 people in the open air.

MOST of our political work at Home to-day is done in the open air. The old-time town hall political meeting, with some party patriarch in the chair, cuts less and less ice, and we all, Cabinet Ministers, women candidates and all the rest, do our work out in the open where the crowd can come.

Standing on a balcony behind Mr. Lloyd George, I have watched with keen interest the way in which he grips his hearers. He is not the fiery impetuous orator of popular imagination at all, but rather a quiet, forceful, weighty speaker, dead serious, with flashes of wit and humour, gleaming out every now and then. He begins slowly and very quietly—he logically lays the foundations of his argument, and

unfolds his theme with telling deliberation. He gets right into the heart of his subject with a quiet emphasis and weight, arresting close attention. He talks in vivid word pictures, directly to the people.

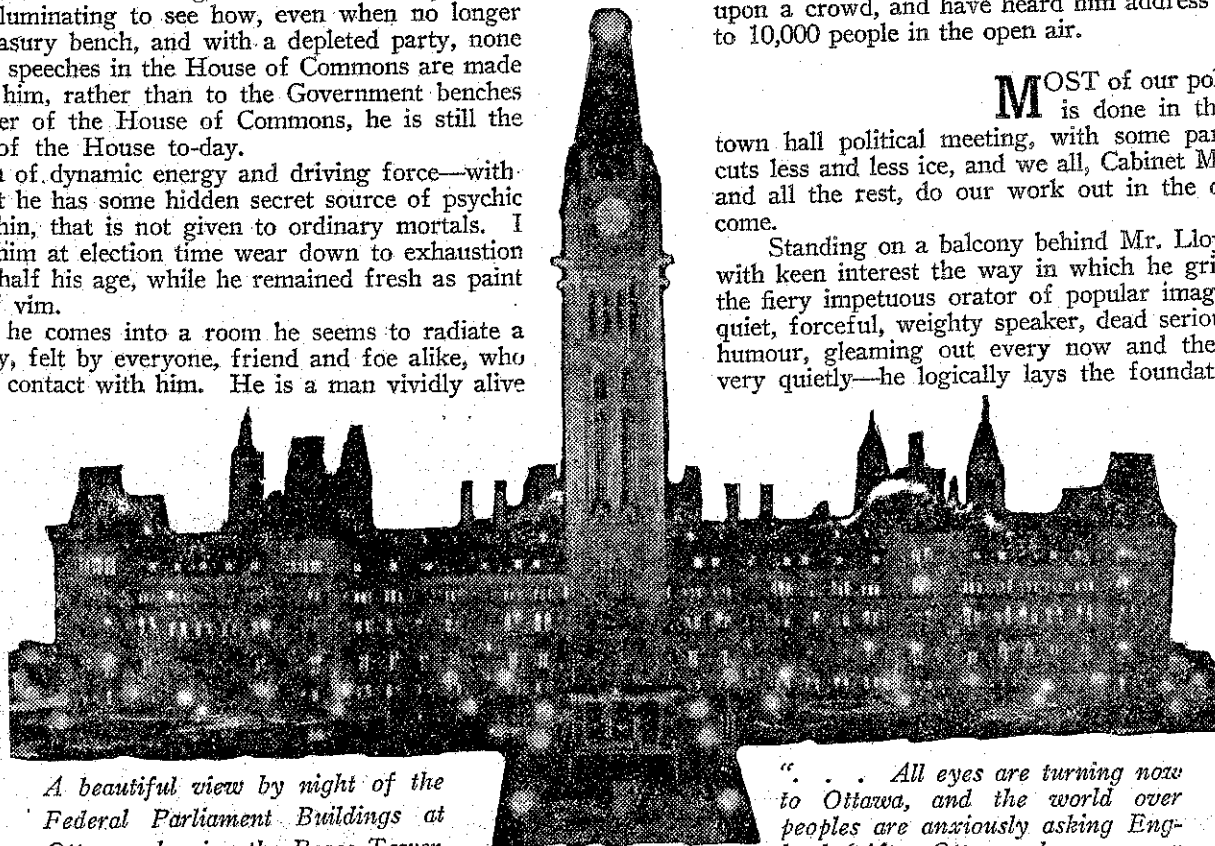
He makes his points with striking illustrations and vivid metaphor—he is a master of brilliant metaphor, and has a rapier thrust of retort and repartee. I have seen the sheer vital force of the man grip every imagination in a great

"... All eyes are turning now to Ottawa, and the world over peoples are anxiously asking England, 'After Ottawa, do you mean to forget you belong to Europe, too?' ..."

A beautiful view by night of the Federal Parliament Buildings at Ottawa, showing the Peace Tower. It is in these buildings that the Ottawa Conference will be held.



Lloyd George.



(Continued on page 5.)