

London Advertiser
Member Audit Bureau of Circulation.

MORNING EDITION.
City, 12c per week, \$6.00 per year.
Outside City, By Mail \$4.00 per year.

NOON EDITION.
City, 12c per week, \$6.00 per year.
Outside City, By Mail \$4.00 per year.

EVENING EDITION.
City, 12c per week, \$6.00 per year.
Outside City, By Mail \$4.00 per year.

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ing.

THE LONDON ADVERTISER COMPANY,
LIMITED.
London, Ont., Friday, June 23.

A FREE PARLIAMENT AND A SHACKLED ONE.

(Written by Hon. W. S. Fielding, in the Journal of Commerce.)

IN THE Parliament of Canada and in the legislatures of the several provinces of Canada we are supposed to follow substantially the rules and customs of the Parliament of Great Britain. We claim that we draw our inspiration and our practice from the "Mother of Parliaments," as we fondly characterize the great bodies which legislate for the British Empire. If difference is to be expected at all between British and Canadian practice it would be that, in the democratic atmosphere of the North American continent, we would have less rigidity of rule and greater freedom of speech and action than in the ancient Parliament of Great Britain. A little while ago our claim along these lines would have been well founded. If a recent incident in our House of Commons is to be approved Canada can no longer claim to be guided by the practice of the free British Parliament.

The action of Sir Robert Borden in making a want of confidence issue out of the question concerning titles in Canada—thus stifling the free voice of the House and calling on Government supporters to humiliate themselves by voting against their publicly declared convictions—is receiving widespread notice from the press. By many journals it is condemned strongly; from few does it receive more than an apologetic approval.

The question of titles, while one of widespread interest, was not one of transcendent importance. Any opinion that the House of Commons might have expressed on it, whether favorable or unfavorable to the granting of Imperial distinctions to Canadians, might have been accepted with equanimity. But the effort, unfortunately successful for the moment, to prevent the free expression of opinion and, by entirely illegitimate pressure, to force men to vote against their known convictions—that is a very important matter, vitally affecting the independence of members of Parliament and the interests of the people whose free agents they are presumed to be. A mobilization of public opinion to prevent a repetition of such kaiserism is necessary for the protection of the rights of the people and of the freedom of Parliament.

Let us recall the facts of the case. The Union Government was formed for the avowed purpose of securing united action in measures deemed necessary for the prosecution of the war. As respects such measures unity was essential. Outside that field, unity was not necessary, nor was it to be expected. On questions not relating to the war there was known to be wide difference of opinion among the members of the cabinet. It was to be expected that the premier and his colleagues would refrain, as far as they could, from introducing such questions. If others introduced them, surely it was reasonable that each member of the cabinet, and each member of the House, must be free to speak and act according to the dictates of his conscience, with a full understanding that so long as the Government were sustained in their war policy, difference of opinion on minor matters counted for little and could not affect the position of the administration. That this was the basis, and the only possible basis, on which the Union Government could stand would, we are sure, have been declared by every member of the cabinet before the unhappy step was taken on the question of titles.

There came before the House of Commons a motion and an amendment on a matter having no earthly relation to the prosecution of the war. That the motions arose from no unfriendliness to the Government was evident from the fact that both emanated from staunch Government supporters. The original motion stood on the order paper for several weeks unchallenged by the Government. Then a debate arose, and an amendment was moved. The whole question was still treated as an open one. The debate was adjourned at the request of the Government, but with no intimation that they regarded the matter as a vital one, affecting them. Weeks later, on the resumption of the debate, after many members had made known their views in support of one or other of the motions, the premier, at the very eleventh hour of the consideration of the question, declared that he must regard the motions as raising an issue of want of confidence, and that the Government would resign if either of the motions was adopted! With no time for consultation or reflection, a majority of the House—not a willing majority, but a dazed, indignant majority, including many new members who could not at the moment understand the position—responded to the premier's call. A victory for the Government! The friends of Union Government may well pray to be saved from further victories of that kind. The unwisdom of the premier was allowed to prevail for the moment. But does anybody suppose that this ends the matter?

Having thus seen a striking example of a parliament in which independence has, for the time at least, been throttled, let us turn to the old "Mother of Parliament," and see how things are done where real freedom prevails, where parliamentary institutions are understood to insure and not to strangle freedom of speech.

Almost on the very day on which freedom of debate was stifled by the Canadian premier, a question came up in the British House of Commons which serves to show what is the right way of dealing with such matters. It was a question on

which there might have been some excuse for the Government requiring unity, for it was a matter of considerable importance and it concerned part of a great Government measure that had been engaging the attention of Parliament. The British Parliament has lately been dealing with the very important question of the franchise. A new franchise law has been enacted, which contains, among other important provisions, one for granting the privilege of voting to several million women. In the consideration of this measure there arose the very important question of proportional representation—a system designed to secure representation for minorities—which has for a long time engaged the attention of advanced thinkers. After much discussion in both Lords and Commons an agreement was reached that, as an experiment, the principle of proportional representation should be applied to one hundred constituencies, and that commissioners be appointed to select the seats to which this arrangement could most conveniently be applied. The commissioners studied the subject carefully and made their report. In due course a member of the Government, Mr. Hayes Fisher, moved to confirm the report.

The reader will observe that the motion related to a material part of a great Government measure, and that it was to give effect to details of a conclusion that Parliament had in principle already adopted. If the Government, in such circumstances, had claimed that it must have the support of the House on this motion, or retire from office, perhaps some defence for such a course could have been offered. But even under such circumstances, with an important Government measure at stake, the idea of shackling the House could not be entertained for a moment. Mr. Fisher, the minister of education, who had charge of the matter, having made his motion, Mr. Pennefather, a Government supporter, at once raised the question of freedom of action, claiming that Mr. Fisher's motion should be regarded as expressing his personal views, and that every member of the House, even a member of the cabinet, should be perfectly free to act according to his judgment. This, according to the ideas of Sir Robert Borden, was an unthinkable line of policy. The British Government, if Sir Robert was right, should have insisted on treating the motion as one of confidence or non-confidence. Mr. Lloyd George should have promptly declared that if he could not have his own way in this matter, he would refuse to play longer in the Union Government yard. He should have intimated that unless his Government's motion was accepted he would be obliged to hand his resignation to the King.

In this case it was not Sir Robert Borden who was called on to declare what should be done. It was Mr. Bonar Law, the chancellor of the exchequer, representing Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. Law at once said that the question should not be regarded as one of non-confidence, but that every member should feel free to vote as he pleased. Thereupon, the House divided, and the motion—a motion made by Mr. Fisher, a minister of the crown—was defeated, 166 to 118. Mr. Lloyd George did not resign or threaten to resign. He carried on his business of winning the war.

That is how such matters are treated in the "Mother of Parliaments," where freedom of discussion and action is valued—a Parliament which would never dream of submitting to the shackles that were imposed on the House of Commons of Canada a few days ago.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

THOSE PATRIOTS who won votes for their masters by telling people Sir Wilfrid Laurier was a Catholic and that no Catholic was fit to be premier should now get busy and spread the glad tidings that Hon. C. J. Doherty, also a Catholic, is now acting premier of Canada.

THE MURDERED EX-CZAR.

OF THE DEAD speak no ill. Now that the news of the murder of Nicholas Romanoff, ex-Czar of Russia, is confirmed, there will appear some eagerness to point out his virtues and condone his faults. It is as well, and, truth to tell, when it is said that Nicholas was the victim of a system and of his own weakness there is little more with which to accuse him.

Russia, during Nicholas' reign, presented a somewhat pitiful picture. There was towards the end of it a struggle by the people to establish responsible government and there was evident a desire of the czar to grant this, if not in fullest measure at least to a considerable extent. Nicholas, however, autocrat though he was supposed to be, was not strong enough to cope with the forces which were arrayed against any democratic movement in Russia. He was overruled and his timorous efforts on behalf of the people went for practically nothing.

In the early days of the war, the czar played a leading part. His public utterances showed no sign of weakening in the face of disasters, and his action in taking personal charge of the army increased his popularity. Later, doubts as to his intentions crept in and enemies in his immediate circles did not hesitate to plot his removal. He was accused of pro-Germanism, of plotting treachery to the Allies and of conspiracy with Wilhelm of Germany. After that things happened rapidly. He was dethroned (although this was supposed to be a voluntary action on his part), imprisoned, moved from pillar to post, made to suffer indignities if not actual harm and want, and, at last, separated from his family he was murdered.

History will have much to say about Nicholas, and it is not impossible that proof will be found that, if the world had much to forgive him, he had much to forgive the world. It may be that he never faltered in his loyalty to the Allies, and that Russia would have been a more heroic figure today had he retained the reins of power.

For the manner of his death there was no excuse and the Bolsheviks have added another crime to the already long list committed by them in the name of liberty. He was a harmless, worried and impotent man at the time of his death and it is certain he had no personal desire to mount the throne again.

Nicholas said all he wanted was peace and a garden in which to work. Let us hope he has the peace at last.

There is a sheep and goat division in the department of agriculture at Ottawa. Enough said.

Hiram Walker & Sons having gone into the dye business, suggests the proposition of how many noses they have colored in their time.

THE TERRIBLE TEMPERED MR. BANG

(Copyright, 1918.)

By FONTAINE FOX.



About once a week the Terrible Tempered Mr. Bang heaves his golf clubs into the water hazard after his ball.

Bits of Big Day
by Luke McLuke
Copyright, 1917.

No joke.
"About complexions you can't tell."
"Remarkable old Mr. Boffi."
"For, while a few of them wear well."
"The most of them wear off."

The Wise Fool.
"People can't stand prosperity," observed the sage.
"Especially when it is the prosperity of other people," commented the fool.

Ups and Downs.
Don't whine about your ups and downs.
Smile like a cheerful fellow.
You haven't any cause for frowns.
Just think of the umbrella.

Police!
"Here is a funny one," said the chief of detectives.
"A clerk in a gent's furnishing store wants me to put him on the detective force."
"What experience has he had in the detective line?" asked the chief of police.

"He says he has been collaring and cuffing men for the past five years," replied the chief of detectives.

Oh, Joy!
"I'd like to live in Germany," said grouchy Mr. Reach.
"For on that land, you see, Right now costs three bucks each."

Nightly Seldom.
Procrastination.
It is funny.
Is it applied to the time of day?
To spending money.

Wu!
The flea said to the dog, "Say, boy! In strength for you I am no match; But I will let the whole world know That I can bring you to the scratch."

The worm said to the fisher lad:
"Say, kid, you are so very big, And I am just a tiny squirm. Yet I can make you dig and dig."

Oh!
There are a great many tall men in this country. But what we started to say was that the Longest Brothers are in the automobile business in Louisville, Ky.

He Hunts and Shoots 'Em.
Arthur Hunt Shute is an artillery officer in the Canadian contingent over in France.

Names Is Names.
Pearl Bass lives in Stearns, Ky.

Our Daily Special.
Take advantage of your opportunities to keep still.

Luke McLuke Says
You should make other things go as far as possible. But you should not stretch the truth.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who used to drink milk as a chaser with his liquor.

The main objection most of us have to listening to other people's troubles is that it doesn't give us time to tell our own.

Ever notice that when a man has to make a business trip to New York his business is so important that he can't take his wife along with him?

A farmer told us that the best way to scare that hired man on a farm now tell you what they want their wages and demand napkins and finger-bowls.

The Advertiser's
Daily Short Story
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IT IS THE LAW.
By Ray Baker.

It was Monday. Fifteen minutes more and the office force of John Hamlin, attorney-at-law, would cease operations until the round, red monarch of day had driven below the western horizon and stuck its nose up out of the east again.

There was still considerable work piled up before the office force, but John Hamlin was young and had a blood-pumping device inside him that pulsated rapidly and kept time to a tune of sympathy for the human race in general. Consequently he could not bring himself to driving tactics in his role of employer, even when neglect of duties was apparent. Moreover, this same office force had been with Hamlin four and one-half years, and that alone spoke for considerable leniency.

Neglect was evident. The office force was gazing steadily at the window, and in the space outside the window. Her hands were resting on the typewriter keyboard, but the deft fingers were inactive. A puzzled little frown wrinkled her forehead.

John Hamlin chewed meditatively on the rubber of his pencil, watched a fly negotiate why it didn't break and break it back, and wished it would, and let his gaze rest on that knob of jet-black hair. He succeeded in checking the pencil eraser in two, spat the amputated portion into the waste basket and resumed perusal of the brief that argued for attention against the bright August day.

"Poor Priscilla," he sighed inaudibly, as he ruffled his red hair and nudged the document into a position where it shut off the view of the stenographer's back. "I work that girl to death, but I never saw her so detached before."

Priscilla had a right to be "detached." It had been often that a girl in a little town like Pellston receives two proposals from two very nice young men in one day. Then, again, one of the very nice young men was a banker.

Let's turn the clock back twenty-four hours and twenty-seven minutes. It happened on Thursday. The proposal program opened at 3:15 p.m. on Sunday. Priscilla remembered the ex-

act time, because she was looking at her wrist watch while she sat under the big oak tree in the woods and listened to the melody of the birds. "You could make me the happiest man in the world if you would only say 'yes' to me," he had been one of those "so sudden" affairs. Priscilla had been married for the last six months. He had been extremely nice to her, giving her flowers, bringing her bouquets, taking her to theatres and for motor car drives, and paying her other attentions; but he never had appeared to nourish any deep affection.

Like many girls, Priscilla had cherished visions of marrying wealth; but as she grew older, she had abandoned all such ideas. In the matter of money, she was a realist. She had been married for the last six months. He had been extremely nice to her, giving her flowers, bringing her bouquets, taking her to theatres and for motor car drives, and paying her other attentions; but he never had appeared to nourish any deep affection.

At twenty-three, working to support herself and mother, Priscilla, despite her proximity to the more sordid side of life which constantly thrust itself into J. Hamlin's office, was far from becoming cynical. She had a keen sense of the real world, but was not dazzled by its glitter. She believed in love, and by its light she did not accept Cecil Melville's proposal.

Neither did she refuse his offer of marriage. She simply said: "I cannot tell you now. I must have time to think it over. Give me a week. I must not act hastily; it would not be best for either of us."

Priscilla had been more than a little surprised that Jerry Hamlin cared for her. He had shown it more strongly each time they were together during the last few months. But Hamlin lacked the funds with which to finance a wooing contest against a man of Cecil Melville's means. Also he did not have as many opportunities as seeing Priscilla on the railroad as a messenger, brakenman on the railroad frequently kept him away from home.

However, Hamlin had reached that stage when something was bound to happen. He did not do it on Sunday evening. He did it on Monday morning. Melville had insisted on seeing her at the office, and she had declined, because she knew Jerry would be home. After that, she had been more than a little surprised that Jerry Hamlin cared for her.

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CHAPMAN'S MIDSUMMER HOLIDAY ECONOMY

Striking values, clearing prices on summer wear. Present market prices are out of reach compared to our offerings this month-end. Supplies cannot be replenished at our present offerings. Store closed Monday. We will make Saturday buyers satisfied at this central, popular store.

Holiday Dresses and Skirts

READY-TO-WEAR DEPARTMENT.

PRETTY GINGHAM DRESSES, in green, blue, rose, tan, black and white, trimmed with pretty muslin, collar and cuffs, fancy belt and pockets. \$6.50 to \$7.75

VOILE DRESSES in many popular styles and shades. Ranging from \$5.00 to \$15.00

SILK POPLINS, CREPE DE CHINES, MESSALINES and TAFFETA, dresses of distinct style, all at holiday clearing prices.

WASH SKIRTS, 12 DOZEN to choose from, six styles, made of fine jean, gathered back, all-around belt, good style, pockets, easy to launder, pearl buttons trimmed. Holiday price \$1.98

Don't fail to see this economy line Saturday. SILK POPLIN SKIRTS for Saturday, holiday wear, regular \$6.50 value \$4.95

Economy in Hose

LADIES' GLASSO HOSE, splendid substitute for silk, lovely sheer hose in white only, 8½ to 10, regular 50c goods, about 20 dozen for clearing Saturday 40c pair

LADIES' LISLE HOSE, perfect fitting, in white or black 35c pair, 3 pairs for 95c Economy price, double sole, heel and toe. They give satisfaction in wear and washing.

Children's White Socks

Strips top and plain, 4½ to 8½, about ten dozen for Saturday. Economy price 22c pair, 5 pairs for \$1.00

House Dresses, Bathing Suits, Corsets, Nightgowns

HOUSE DRESSES, made of percales and gingham, good assortment of colors. Clearing at \$1.33

5 DOZEN LADIES' JERSEY KNIT BATHING SUITS, in navy blue, V neck, trimmed with bands of white, red and orange. \$1.75

LADIES' BATHING SUITS, made of gloria goods, in navy with white braid trimming on sailor collar and belt, good value \$4.00

10 DOZEN LADIES' WHITE CAMBRIC NIGHTGOWNS, made slipover and buttoned fronts. Special \$1.00

5 DOZEN LACE AND EMBROIDERY TRIMMED PETTICOATS, made of good cambric, full width \$1.25

10 DOZEN CORSET COVERS, trimmed with torchon lace and embroidery. Clearing at \$1.35

Corsets

made of good coutil, four hose supporters. CHAPMAN'S SPECIAL \$1.00

Holiday Flags

Allies' Ensigns—Canadian, French, American, Italian, etc. 10c and 25c For Dominion Day display, good value, fast colors.

MOTOR CAPS FOR LADIES, popular, serviceable colors and patterns. Saturday 95c

J. H. Chapman & Co., 239, 241, 243 Dundas

PHONES—791, 2882.

Ladies' Midsummer Blouses

4 DOZEN ASSORTED WAISTS, white voile, also black or white stripe, blue stripe, or pink stripe, with new style collar, value \$1.50 to \$2.00, sizes 36 to 44. While they last only \$1.25

4 DOZEN WHITE ORGANDY AND VOILE WAISTS just in, sizes 36 to 44, regular \$1.25. To clear at 98c

4 DOZEN ASSORTED WHITE OR COLORED WAISTS, this season's goods, sizes 36 to 44, value \$1.25 and \$1.50. To clear at 80c

Ladies' Wash Silk Gloves

LADIES' HEAVY TIPPED SILK GLOVES, Kayser make, white or black, sizes 6, 6½, 7, 7½, 8, 8½; regular \$1.00. On sale \$1.25. Economy price \$1.00

Dress Goods and Silks

CREPE DE CHINE D