

THE COURIER

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Monday, March 30, 1914

SIR LYMAN JONES.

The formal announcement of Sir Melvin Lyman-Jones, president of the Massey-Harris Company, and Senator, that he has left the Liberal party, of rather, that the Liberal party has left him, will not occasion any surprise to those who appreciate his qualities.

His whole successful career has demonstrated that he is an exceedingly far-sighted man. When, therefore, he expresses the view that a moderate amount of protection is necessary in Canada for revenue and as a safeguard against the huge combines across the border, he is stating something which every man who gives the matter thoughtful consideration must realize to be true.

The Senator knows right well what it would mean to the factories and the men in Brantford and other centres if agricultural implements should be placed on the free list, and he is followed in this view by thousands of other Liberals, the members of the Brantford executive included.

He has been a lifelong adherent of his former side, and a tower of strength, not alone personally, but also in the matter of meeting the calls which are necessary for the organizations of the parties on both sides. That the step which he has felt bound to take is possessed of a deep significance even the most casual cannot fail to realize.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER-SHIP.

Certain Liberal papers are still affecting to be much concerned with regard to the appointment of a successor to Lord Strathcona as Canadian High Commissioner in the Old Land. They affirm that there is much trouble with reference to filling the post and that the members of the Cabinet cannot decide whether it shall be Premier Borden, Hon. Robt. Rogers or somebody else. Hon. Mr. Graham is also greatly concerned about the matter and depicts the administration "as shivering on the brink."

What brink? The position is one of too great importance to be filled in any rash manner. Laurier was more than glad to ask Strathcona to continue in same because of the great financial demand which the post involves. The salary has never hitherto been adequate for the upkeep, and has involved demands upon private resources, and it is not every man who can go into his own pocket in this supplemental manner. That there is any crisis is absolute unbecome and the claim is simply one more illustration of how hard the Liberals are put to it these days in a wild effort to get some party ammunition. Without question Mr. Borden and his colleagues will see to it that a suitable appointment is ultimately made.

VISIT OF THE DUKE.

The announcement that the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada, will pay an official visit to Brantford, on Saturday, April 16th, next will be received with pleasure by the residents of the City and County alike. Not only has he made abundantly good as the occupant of Rideau Hall and displayed much tact and urbanity, but as the only surviving son of "Victoria the Good," he will be doubly welcome. His Royal Highness is in his sixty-fourth year and will be the third member of the reigning house to pay an official visit to this community.

The first was the late King Edward who as Prince of Wales made a tour of the Dominion in 1860. His trip to Brantford occurred on Friday, Feb. 14th, of that year and there were great preparations. Ordinance were placed on Terrace Hill to thunder forth a welcome as soon as the train reached the depot, and arches of evergreens and appropriate devices were placed across the track at the station, and others crossed the streets at intervals along the whole route to be traversed by the Royal party. Union Jacks and patriotic mottoes floated from public buildings and many windows and a clear cool day added to the zest of the celebration. It is estimated that twenty thousand people assembled within the gates of the Town as it then was. After addresses

and the singing of the National Anthem by school children, a procession was formed of various official bodies societies and so on, and under a reception canopy, more addresses were presented to each of which the Prince made suitable replies. Later, there was a notable luncheon at the Kerby House.

The next Royal pair to come here were the Prince and Princess of Wales, now the King and Queen. Their stay was very brief, comprising a short program on a platform erected outside the Gand Trunk depot. On this occasion, among other things, there was the presentation from the city of a silver telephone. The enthusiasm from first to last was most marked.

That the Duke will also be received with equal cordiality, does not admit of any question, not alone, as before mentioned because of his own sake, but also for that of his revered mother.

THE ANNUAL SPRING FRESHET MENACE.

The following editorial is from the Toronto Globe: "Present appearances indicate that some centres of population in this Province which have been chronic sufferers from destructive spring freshets for half a century will get out of this year with very little loss. The reason that some adequate system of preventive works should be planned at once and constructed by degrees is none the less impressive because the worst has not happened this time; mere sense of relief should be as potent a warning as actual disaster."

As usual the dreaded freshets have been heard from all over the Province, but most significantly so from the western peninsula. The Grand River has always a bad re-epidemic, the Thames being a good second. The causes of dangerous spring floods in the cases of these two rivers are not merely similar but typical; in a great measure the rivers rising on this plateau run to Lakes Erie, St. Clair, Huron and Ontario. The chief rivers are the Grand, the Thames, the Maitland, the Saugeen, the Beaver, the Nottawasaga, the Holland, the Huron, and the Credit. The central plateau, an oblong from southwest to northeast, was down to fifty years ago largely covered with primeval forest, including extensive swamps, the modern form of ancient lakes; now it is a wind-swept, deforested expanse, artificially drained, and otherwise artificially prepared to get rid as speedily and completely as possible of the stored-up rainfall of winter and spring. If the snow is not too deep, or if it goes off slowly through the advance of the season, all disaster may be avoided; if the snow is deep, and it goes off with heavy and frequent rains, this has been an on-again in trouble, but next year may be the worst in the history of the Province.

The physiographic facts being known, it is easy to suggest the fitting precaution: the water that rushes away in a few days must be detained by artificial obstructions, and thus retained where it is beneficial, instead of being allowed to hasten to where it is destructive. When the country was covered with forest the swamps were receptacles of water, and the streams were obstructed by fallen trees and beaver dams. By drainage the swamps have been converted into farming land, the beaver dams have been opened up, and the water-logged timber has been taken out. In consequence of these "improvements" the spring freshets, instead of being prolonged for weeks, pass away in a few days. To make them more potent for mischief the ice on the upper and more swift-flowing portions of the rivers generally breaks up before the ice lower down, and when this happens the freshest water is piled up higher than would otherwise be the case. The obvious remedy is to construct storage dams where the streams are small and hydrographic conditions are locally favorable. One incidental advantage resulting from the storage of water on the plateau and its sloping sides would be an improvement of the climatic conditions; another would be an enormous increase in the availability of water-power for the development of hydro-electric energy.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A rev. gentleman named Styles has just been appointed to an Ontario parish. He ought to attract the fair sex.

General "Pancho" Villa did not get into the city of Torreon after all. To the contrary, it would seem as if he and his followers got something like a spanking.

The Toronto Globe pretends that the Borden Government is worried "about the public." The chief worry with the Laurierites is that they can't get the public, and are not likely to do so for many years.

Melli Besse, Germany's noted woman aviator, has decided to enter into the competition to fly across the Atlantic. She ought to take the Pankhursts along, for they have proved themselves to be expert air artists.

Christabel Pankhurst says that after women get the vote households will be kitchenless, as the lady of the family will be so busy regarding public affairs that she and hubby, and the kiddies will dine at restaurants. If Christabel would give the public a rest with regard to some of her stunts, that would be more to the purpose.

The Danish Senate has refused to ratify a treaty entered into by the Government, the Canadian Senate is all the time pole-axing useful legislation of the Borden Administration, and the U. S. Senate is fighting to have Uncle Sam break his pledged word regarding Panama Canal tolls. Taking one consideration with another, Senates everywhere seem to be not only pesky, but also pestiferous.

The deaths from typhoid fever in the city of Ottawa for the last eleven years (figures taken from the official returns of the Registrar-General for Ontario), are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Number of deaths. 1902: 19, 1903: 6, 1904: 13, 1905: 14, 1906: 25, 1907: 25, 1908: 25, 1909: 20, 1910: 24, 1911: 27, 1912: 28.

Total: 369. And this is the awful toll which the people of the Capital City paid because of the lack of a pure water supply.

Uncle Walt

The Poet Philosopher

THE SILVER LINING.

Last summer when the hot winds blew, and wilted things on every hand, and when the sun, in skies of blue, shone down and blistered all the land, we mortals raised a bitter wail, and cried: "In this there is no sense, for all our cherished crops will fail! Oh drouth disastrous, get thee hence!" Had any moral high-browed guys attempted to convince us then that back of all was purpose wise, we should have jeered and jeered again. But now that theory is fulfilled, for we're informed ten thousand scores of Ben Davis apple-trees were killed, by that fierce drouth to hear no more, Ben Davis trees are standing dead throughout this glad and fertile land, and we regret the things we said because we did not understand. So let's be patient after this when trouble dogs us, close behind, for sorrow's but a cloak for bliss, and threatening clouds are silver-lined.

WALT MASON.

To The Editor

SHOULD BRANTFORD HAVE A ROLLER RINK ON ALFRED STREET.

To the Editor of the Courier:

Sir.—This is a question agitating the minds of a large number of people just now, especially the younger ones, who I think should be especially considered in the matter.

I read with some surprise the account of the Council meeting last Tuesday and the attitude of the members on that occasion. A few property owners in the immediate vicinity of the rink are trying to prevent a license from being issued, and from their point of view are entitled to be considered. But are they justified in their contention that the rink has depreciated property? Previous to the rink being built the land on the west side of Alfred street was useless for any residential building purpose. It lies in a hole and the city sewers run across the property. The view is a flat of waste land, railway yards and factories and the lots themselves a wilderness of weeds and weeds bottles. Mr. Trench has spent a large sum of money redeeming the land and has built (not a root house as one of the members called it), but one of the finest skating rinks in Canada. If the 700 cubic yards of concrete contained in the walls (averaging over twenty feet high), were on the ground level and blocked off in the regular way, you would agree with me it was an ornament to the town.

Now, Mr. Trench has spent a large sum of money, and paying a large revenue towards our taxes, and is it fair that his property be closed for eight or nine months each year.

As I said before the young people are entitled to consideration and it is well known that numbers go, through the summer months to Hamilton for roller skating. If there is no accommodation in their home town for them the young people will go where they can get sport. When they get away from home influence they throw away (very largely), all sense of restraint and we wonder why they get into trouble.

Roller skating is a clean sport and a healthy exercise and run under proper conditions and management should help to keep our young people at home here the parents have a chance to watch over them.

JUSTICE.

Fire did damage to the extent of \$3,500 in the house of the Marine Construction Company at the foot of York street, Toronto, last night.

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Birthdays of Note

MONDAY, MARCH THIRTIETH

The Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Galt, one of Canada's best known novelists and the author of several entertaining books, was born forty-six years ago to-day in the village of Maxwell, Ontario. He says that one of the most amusing incidents in his life occurred one day when a man and woman came to his house to be married. With his wife as one of the witnesses, Mr. Knowles went through the ceremony, and according to his custom, closed the performance by kneeling down and asking the Divine blessing on the couple, with a special petition that the man might be abundantly blessed in his business. As the two were leaving, he incidentally asked the groom what calling he followed and was somewhat dismayed to find that he was a saloonkeeper. "Well," said he to Mrs. Knowles, after the door had closed, "I'll just have to tell God, that that petition about prospering the fellow's business is one that he needsn't fulfil."

Samuel Palin, for many years a resident of Hamilton, died yesterday. He was 89 years old.

AN ATTACK MADE

When the leaders of the various parties are summoned to Buckingham Palace the King's efforts are always directed to making opponents come together in agreement. He urged Sir Edward Carson to do this in the present case. He pointed out that the King is constitutionally obliged to sign the Home Rule Bill if it goes through the House of Commons and is presented to him. Sir Edward Carson replied in effect: "If you sign the bill you will sign away the monarchy," which is practically what Queen-Mother Alexandra said about the Parliament Bill.

Army Crisis Acute.

Again, when the army crisis was acute, and it has been and is even more acute than what has been published would indicate, the King really supported the Government. As was said in a recent despatch, a crisis such as the present army and navy affairs most nearly concerns the sovereign, for whether the army and navy are technical forces of Parliament or not, phrases such as "the King's commission," "H. M. S. Dreadnought," meaning "His" or "Her Majesty's"

Dreadnought," songs such as "Soldiers of the Queen," and a thousand other things show that the links between the crown and the fighting forces is the strongest link the monarchy in this country has with its subjects.

To Preserve the Throne.

Yet even here the King uses his influence undoubtedly in behalf of his Ministers. To one great General from Aldershot, who was for paralyzing the Government on even stronger lines than the officers at the Curragh did, the King said: "General you seem to wish to establish an oligarchy in this country." The General, who like many other Englishmen, considers Cabinet rule as already an oligarchy, replied, just as Sir Edward Carson did: "We wish to preserve the throne."

The influence of the King prevented wholesale resignations at Aldershot and prevailed on the officers from the Curragh to make terms with the Government, and the sovereign cannot be blamed for the incredible weakness and double dealing with which the Cabinet and Secretary for War Seely brought about the acceptance of the terms.

For these reasons, if the ministers had told the whole truth, the cry of "The King and the army against the people," which is the election cry on which many extremists in the Radical

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parly are willing to go to the country at once, would have to be changed so as to omit the name of the King.

The so-called wicked attempt of the Tories to use the army for political purposes and the wicked attempt of the Radicals to make the nation believe such a wicked lie are the subjects of fiery articles in the newspapers of the respective parties. The wicked attempt of the government to provoke the men of Ulster to bloodshed and the wicked lie that the Government had attempted any such thing are the topics of other furious rival creeds.

The new Radical cry of "The Army erus the People," on which it is hoped to win the next election, is to be formally blessed at a special meeting of the National Liberal Federation on April 3.

MR. ASQUITH FOR 'EM ONCE

(Continued from Page 3)

The Premier said that a consideration, Field Marshal and Adjutant-General Ewart assisted in their desire to be re-elected and in the public eye he deeply deplored the death of these gallant officers and I speak too warmly or gratefully, loyalty and devotion which they have served the army, and will, I hope, to serve.

The Premier told the House (Col. Seely had informed him great regret that he felt he could not take the same course and resign the secretaryship for war.

Mr. Asquith then sprang his trap on the House. He said "In the circumstances a much consideration I have it duty to assume the office of state for war, although taken the step only with the reluctance in what I believe great public emergency."

That the Premier's announcement was a complete surprise was on every hand. The member ministerial side of the House momentarily struck dumb, they jumped onto the seats as out in wild burrass.

Premier Asquith added John French and Sir John Ewart asked him to say they were accord with the statement made to the House of Commons.

Premier Resigns In announcing that King had signified his approval of the resignation of the War minister Asquith concluded:

"I have taken the law to the legal authorities to obtain their opinion and all the lawyers are agreed I must resign from the House of Commons. I therefore, in accordance with the law retire from the office."

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