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London, Ont., Monday, Dec. 13.

## MR. FERGUSON'S ILLUSION.

There are a lot of disgruntled Tories in Ontario these days as a result of the choice of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson as provincial leader. On the streets, in stores, on the back of street cars, there is everywhere the same opinion voiced where men get together, that the party made a bad mistake in choosing Mr. Ferguson—at any rate in choosing him at the present time. It is when the name of the ex-minister is placed beside that of a man like W. F. Nickle of Kingston that the contrast becomes more marked, and W. F. Nickle is the man whom no small part of the delegation at Toronto wanted for leader.

It is one of the weaknesses of a defeated political party that it always thinks it will come back at the next election. The defeated leaders always think that the people were led off the path by some will-o'-the-wisp and that at the first opportunity they will get back on the right path again. This seems to be the attitude of mind of Mr. Ferguson and his friends. They seem to think that Ontario is just waiting in anxiety and impatience for the day when it can have G. Howard Ferguson administering its affairs again. We hate to disillusion that gentleman, but if he will go incognito into the smoking cars on trams or get on the back of a street car in any Canadian city, he will soon know how much he is wanted back at the helm, and how much confidence even those who are supposed to be his followers really have in him. We predict that Mr. G. Howard Ferguson is going to be quickly disillusioned one of these fine days.

## D'ANNUNZIO'S CAREER.

The blood-and-thunder career of Gabriele d'Annunzio seems drawing to an end. Since the opening of the war, not to speak of anterior times, he has been a meteoric figure in Italian life, sailing the night winds in an aeroplane like a real angel Gabriele, riding the Italian flag like a broomstick, so to speak, by the pale moonlight, butting into everything from the planet Venus across to Mars, now and then coming to earth, and finally alighting amidst a band of operatic faithfuls on the port of Fiume to dart defiance at the whole world. He has had his fill of alarms and excursions, seems really to have kept Fiume from the Jugo-Slavs in spite of President Wilson, and all the others, and behold him now getting ready, almost, to retire back into the humdrum life of a mere author of prose and verse.

You search the records of history in vain for a parallel to the exploits of d'Annunzio. He is now 56 years of age past, a time of life when most men's adventures would consist of career around lodges in plumes and purple breeches. He may have been man about town in his earlier days, perhaps man about lodges, too; but as he grows younger with each decade, he becomes first man about sky and finally Ajax defying the lightning in Fiume. The only thing left for him, except returning to his author's armchair, is to come over and suppress or conduct the rum-running on Canadian frontiers.

There was a Scotchman 300 years or so ago called the Admirable Crichton, who was scholar, poet, adventurer and fighting man all combined. But he was only a youth of 25 when he met a violent death, whereas the foremost poet, novelist, orator and adventurer of modern Italy comes unscathed through everything, and probably an Italian life insurance agent would snap at him as a good risk now. It is clear that for all his vagaries he has a strong hold on the imagination of his fellow-countrymen. Whatever governments and officials may say to him, the Italian mob is for him. It is as though the British Government were being pressed to give up Gibraltar to Spain and Kipling went over to hold on to it. There would be a lot of sympathy for his action however hare-brained.

The fierce nationalism of the great war has made an emotional appeal to artistic spirits in different lands. In Poland, Padewski came to the front as ruler of the state. Not a little of Lloyd George's hold on the British nation is from his cymric faculty of imagination and sympathy; he has a poetic insight into people and conditions. In his smaller, more intense and irregular fashion d'Annunzio also brings the artist's temperament to bear on political conditions, and holds Fiume against all-comers for Italy.

## MARTIAL LAW IN IRELAND.

Lloyd George's announcement that martial law is to be proclaimed in certain parts of Ireland is at once discouraging and encouraging. It is discouraging because it indicates that the prospects of an early peace are not bright. Martial law is never invoked unless the situation is very bad. It is always a last resort in the attempt to keep law and order. On the other hand, it is encouraging to recognize that the British Government has no intention of backing down before an infamous gang. To have conceded anything to the ex-

trémists of the Sinn Féiners would have been to surrender to anarchy.

## SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS.

More than a score of men's brotherhoods are meeting in London every Sunday morning. Hundreds of men are turning out an hour before regular church service to listen to addresses on subjects of timely interest and to participate themselves in the discussions on these subjects. In a sense, all of these gatherings are open forums, because there is, as a rule, no tendency to make the gatherings "churchy." These Sunday morning gatherings are having no small influence in developing a right social consciousness among the men of London and their concerted strength thrown into any public project will mean much in the days ahead.

## CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES.

The Ottawa Journal comments in rather sarcastic style on the failure of Ottawa's people to turn out to the Shakespearean performances of Mr. Walter Hampden, and says that in the three nights that this distinguished actor appeared in the Canadian capital there were fewer people to witness his presentations than in the one night in which he appeared in the little city of Kingston. We are of the opinion that the presence of Queen's University at Kingston is one of the explanations for this rather striking contrast, and can see in it one of the very beneficial effects which the presence of a university in a community exerts upon its people. It is not that the university brings everybody to a "high-brow" plane, but it does have the effect of setting things in their right proportions. Kingston people may go to the movies, or dance, or play bridge, quite as ardently and wholeheartedly as people in any other community, but when it is a choice between the poorer and the better thing their choice is instinctively made.

## THE DOMINION AT GENEVA.

The refusal of the Canadian and other Empire delegations to the League of Nations Assembly to follow the lead of the Mother Land or agree with one another on vital matters brought up should pretty effectually dispose of the belief throughout the United States that Great Britain would hold solid six votes to America's one should the latter enter the League. It was this point the Republican treaty wreckers played up stronger than any other. The American public was told that Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, would take their cue from whatever attitude the British Government assumed, unprotestingly accepting whatever proposals were presented.

Despite their nearness, and our intimate intercourse with them the American people are amazingly ignorant of this country's political status in relation to the Empire. It is generally supposed that we are of the nature of a crown colony, managed from London. They have not realized the extent of the overseas dominions' self-governing powers or the extent to which the dominions are prepared to exercise them. Canada's disagreement with the Mother Country and the sister dominions at Geneva is a striking demonstration of our nationhood that is certain to repeat to our great advantage.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

No race can become "the salt of the earth" unless it has the "pep."

Factions in the hobo's convention at Toledo have agreed to bury the hatchet—but not in a pile of cordwood.

As part of the general plan of reconstruction it would not be a bad idea to remove some of the fixtures at Ottawa.

The League of Nations Assembly must face problems as stupendous as the mountains which surround its meeting place.

It took centuries of hard work to make Canada what it is today, and there are many tasks for us, the pioneers of greater Canada, to perform.

It's not a lack of opportunity so much as a lack of willingness and stick-to-it-iveness that helps to increase the numbers on the street corners.

No doubt Santa Claus will bring along some of those newly-discovered Arctic petroleum wells for the stockings of the oil and gasoline barons.

One thing that has been neglected by social reformers is the establishing of a place where bachelors could get their socks mended. This would prevent the use of much superfluous and sulphurous language.

The Catalonians are asking the League of Nations to free them from Spanish rule. If this craze for independence continues we may expect to hear of the Indian asking the League to return to him the United States and Canada.

## HOME THE HEART OF FARM BUSINESS.

[Farm and Ranch Review.]  
The home is the place where all big business is born, and if the home is chaotic, poorly equipped and worse managed, then the chance for any great business enterprise to be created in there is very slim. This is just as true of a farm home as any other, and the farmer who must bring to bear upon his various undertakings all the mental and physical activity of which he is capable, cannot afford to neglect the home atmosphere. If he is to attack the various problems that confront him with the greatest amount of energy of which he is capable, then the home where he and his family meet to discuss these problems must be conducive to the greatest mental and physical activity on the part of all concerned, and in order that the household machinery may run with the least friction and loss of strength and energy, it is necessary that the home be modern. Such improvements as water, light and heat are considered very expensive to install, but when the comfort of a home thus equipped is taken into account, crediting it not only with the greater convenience it affords, the lesser amount of work necessary for its upkeep, but also the initial cost divided into such a home, the initial cost dwindles into insignificance. And any up-to-date farmer who values the health, strength, comfort and convenience of the members of his household, and the mental stimulus arising from bodily comfort, cannot afford to remain inactive when it comes to modernizing his home.

## From Here and There

## THE BALLANTYNE PIER.

[Ottawa Citizen.]  
Another new monument to the high cost of living in Canada will be built by the government in Vancouver. It is to be called the Ballantyne Pier. The contract has been placed by Mr. C. C. Ballantyne, minister of marine. The first cost to the people of Canada will be \$3,000,000. On this new debt is being raised by taxes on baby clothes, school children's boots, the breakfast table, blankets, and on practically every other necessary article of home life in Canada.

## TEACHERS AND OLD AGE.

[Exchange.]  
The statement was made at the annual meeting of the Ontario Association of Managers of Homes for the Aged and Infirm that of members of the professional classes who are inmates of the homes, school teachers predominate. A little thought might have led to this conclusion, but it is not one of which the public can be proud. Notoriously for years school teachers have been underpaid, and in a large number of cases it must have been an utter impossibility for them to have made any provision for old age. It has taken a long while and earnest effort to wake the public to its duty in providing fair remuneration to teachers; even now, when the salaries paid in certain industries are considered, they cannot be said to be on the excessive or generous side.

The curious part of the matter is that the teachers are engaged in a great industry, a most important and hugely responsible one, the construction and upbuilding of the character of the boys and girls who will form the next generation. A man who is starting on a career, not forgetting French wives, he can get, and pays them salaries which not only encourage their best services, but assure their remaining with him. The school policy, at all events up till recently, has been to try to get good teachers at low salaries, and the result has been that thousands of teachers have gone into other occupations. It is sad to think that in Canada, and it was the Highlanders who turned the fortunes of the day." Henceforth they are devoted to the arts of peace in town and country, and are racially absorbed by the French-Canadians, their surnames only remaining this day—Campbells, Frasers, MacLarens, etc., all speaking the French language. "They are French-Canadians, but every trait and gesture shows the inheritance of the men who made and saved Canada for Britain."

## THE LOST HIGHLANDERS.

["The Bookman," in Winnipeg Free Press.]  
Under the caption "Wolfe's Lost Highlanders," a writer in the current number of Chambers's Journal writes about the Scotsmen who remained in Canada after the fall of Quebec and married French women. And he tells again the story of their gallant defence of that fortress, sixteen years later, in the American invasion. These Highlanders called to the colors from their farms responded to the number of 21 officers and 207 men, "no bad muster after sixteen years of peace, not forgetting French wives of doubtful loyalty." And he says that but for these Highlanders, speedily called into action by Sir Guy Carleton, there is not a doubt that "the Stars and Stripes would float from the Rio Grande to Baffin Land" today. It is the last time that Wolfe's Highlanders appear as fighting men. In the battle the British lost 15,000 men and Americans 400. "It was the decisive battle for Empire in Canada, and it was the Highlanders who turned the fortunes of the day." Henceforth they are devoted to the arts of peace in town and country, and are racially absorbed by the French-Canadians, their surnames only remaining this day—Campbells, Frasers, MacLarens, etc., all speaking the French language. "They are French-Canadians, but every trait and gesture shows the inheritance of the men who made and saved Canada for Britain."

## FIREARMS IN THE WOODS.

[Quebec Telegraph.]  
There is something startling in the number of men who venture to carry firearms in the woods without any qualification or capacity whatever for safeguarding either themselves or others from the dangers of the gun they take with them. Not a hunting season passes without the killing or at least the maiming of a number of people from this cause. A few days ago S. Farley and A. Hurlbert, farmers of Augusta, Ontario, were mistaken in the brush near Brockville at nightfall for a fox or other wild animal, and were shot by another farmer, A. Hanna, with a double-barrel shotgun. Farley received a shot in the arm and Hurlbert in the foot. Neither was seriously hurt. The two called out when Hanna was in the act of reloading, and thus escaped further injury. Less fortunate, however, was Andrew Martin of the Cochrane Lumber Company, while hunting along the line of the Canadian National Railway on Tuesday, for he was accidentally shot and killed by a young man in his party, who was walking behind him as the two were descending a hill. The butt of the young man's gun struck some obstacle which caused the weapon to discharge, and the contents went through Mr. Martin's body. The deceased was about 60 years of age. He resided in North Bay.

In the same issue of the newspaper in which the above tragic cases were reported there appeared an account of the shooting of the city clerk of Guelph, Mr. J. T. Moore, while deer hunting in Northern Ontario with a party which included Police Magistrate Watt of the same city. He was mistaken for a deer by a settler, who shot Mr. Moore in the small of the back. The wounded man was removed to the hospital at St. Mary's, 55 miles distant from the scene of the shooting. Examination showed that the bullet had glanced around the ribs from the back to the front of the body, so that if he recovers it will be almost a miracle. It is a pity that some means cannot be found for prohibiting the use of firearms except by those with a proper knowledge of how to handle them, just as is done in the case of automobile drivers.

## THE SCRAMBLE FOR OIL.

[Exchange.]  
The Canadian Pacific Railway, a Vancouver dispatch says, has been compelled to abandon its oil-burning equipment in both steamships and locomotives and to return to coal, because it is unable to get an adequate supply of fuel oil from the United States. The rapid conversion of the world's shipping to oil fuel is one of the most striking facts in the report of Lloyd's Register of shipping for the year ended June 30 last. The new ships classed during the year as fitted for oil-burning numbered 426, of 1,995,785 tons, as compared with 211 vessels of 1,153,650 tons the previous year. It was estimated that of vessels over 100 tons, those using coal as fuel amounted to 76 per cent, and those using oil under boilers or in internal combustion engines 18 per cent.

The reversion to coal by the Canadian Pacific steamships brings home to us the world struggle for fuel oil. Petroleum forms an apparently incidental but really significant portion of the note addressed by United States Secretary of State Colby to Lord Curzon, British foreign minister, regarding the nature of the British mandate over Mesopotamia. "The Government of the United States assumes that there is a general recognition of the fact that the requirements for petroleum are in excess of production, and it believes that opportunity to explore and develop the petroleum resources of the world, wherever found, should without discrimination be freely extended, as only by the unhampered development of such resources can the needs of the world be met."

But by the Franco-British agreement concerning oil production in the Near East, executed at San Remo on April 28, the British Government allows France a share of 25 per cent, at current market rates, of the oil produced in Mesopotamia. In his note to Earl Curzon, Secretary Colby has challenged the right of Great Britain as mandatory to make such arrangement, which would partly, if not entirely, close the door to competition. Mr. Colby claims that the United States possesses approximately only one-twelfth of the petroleum resources of the world, but his own geological survey puts the share much higher. Whatever it may be, the survey claims that the American reserve at the present rate of consumption will be exhausted in eighteen years.

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CANADA?

## ANSWERS TO YESTERDAY QUESTIONS.

1—Lake Abitibi is in the northern part of Ontario.  
2—Wolfe took Quebec September 13, 1759.  
3—Laura Secord warned the British army of the American advance in the battle of Beaver Dams.

4—The four great explorers of Western Canada in the eighteenth century were Samuel Hearne, James Cook, Alexander Mackenzie and David Thompson.

5—Major-Gen. Dearborn was commander-in-chief of the United States army at the beginning of the war of 1812.

6—The licensing of auctioneers comes under the provincial government.

7—Medicine Hat is called Alberta's "gas city" because it is in the centre of the greatest natural gas field yet discovered in the province.

8—Holy Communion was first celebrated within the borders of the present Dominion of Canada in 1573, when Queen Elizabeth, at Froh-lager Bay, Baffin's Land, by Master Wolful, who accompanied Sir Martin Frobisher on his third expedition.

9—Canada has 37,000 square miles of peat bogs.

10—Cape Henrietta Marie is in Ontario at the outlet of James Bay.

11—What were Canada's fur exports last year?  
2—Name three Ontario towns situated on the St. Lawrence River.  
3—When was the battle of Queenston Heights?  
4—When did Champlain discover Lake

## Champlain?

5—Where is the Portland Promontory?

6—Who was Pierre le Moine d'Iber-villet?

7—Who is Isabel Ecclestone Mackay?

8—How many experimental farms has the Dominion Government in Alberta?

9—What is the population of Manitoba?

10—Who was France's ally in the war of the Spanish succession?

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