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EMPIRE CONFERENCE IS LEADING TOPIC

London Newspapers Publish Portraits of Overseas Premiers.

ISSUES TO COME UP.

LONDON, Sept. 33.—London newspapers are beginning to assume the appearance of picture galleries with the portraits they are publishing of the Premiers of the various Dominions coming to attend the Imperial Conference. Besides, the papers are publishing lists of the delegates to the Imperial Economic Conference, with biographical notes and interesting comment.

This a foretaste is being given of the big dual event which in a few days assuredly will oust the Anglo-French and other current topics from the premier place they have been holding. The two conferences will be going on at the same time.

With reference to editorial comment on the coming conferences, the Liberal papers seem to evince more concern than the others, the reason being fear for the safety of their cherished tenet of free trade. The Liberal Westminster Gazette sees the happiest augury in the personality of the Dominion participants in the conferences, and specially cites Premier Smuts of South Africa as standing for peaceful evolution "will replace that of the 'inflated figure' of W. M. Hughes, former Premier of Australia.

Premier Mackenzie King's mood

also encourages the hope that the progressive forces will be uppermost, in the view of The Gazette, and it refers to the fact that another milestone will be marked by the attendance of President William T. Cosgrave of the Irish Free State. Nevertheless, The Gazette foresees sorrows, especially in connection with the resolution which is to be moved by Premier S. M. Bruce of Australia in favor of a preference tariff and declares that Premier Smuts and Mackenzie King fortunately realize that this is an internal question for the British Premier to decide.

The Sebastopol left St. Joseph's during the night and is due this afternoon.

The Portia left yesterday morning for Labrador and goes direct to Holton.

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From The Masthead

By The Lookout

Extremely suggestive is the appeal recently made to America by a number of the most distinguished publicists and leaders of Great Britain. The appeal was to the United States to join in some way in aiding Europe to recover from the terrible condition to which her own statesmen (his) have let her drift. The signers are: William Archer, playwright and dramatic critic; Arnold Bennett, novelist; John Drinkwater, author of the famous play "Abraham Lincoln"; A. G. Gardiner, late editor of the Daily News; Prof. L. T. Hobhouse, professor of sociology in London University; J. A. Hobson, economist; J. M. Keynes, author "Economic Consequences of the Peace"; Earl Lombe, formerly Lord Chancellor; J. Ramsay MacDonald, leader of the Labour party; H. W. Massingham, late editor of the Nation; Gilbert Murray, professor and author; Sir Horace Plunkett, founder of the Irish Cooperative Movement; Maude Royden, lecturer; Mrs. Philip Snowden, lecturer; and Graham Wallace, sociologist and author.

"Many thoughtful men and women in Britain of various or no political attachment, but nourished upon liberal ideas and valuations," they say, "are convinced that the very existence of Western civilization is in jeopardy owing to the failure of Europe to make a good recovery from the material and moral injuries of the great war."

"Some of us were not even disabused by the deluge of Versailles, but still believed and hoped that the lessons of the war would somehow liberate forces of reason and goodwill adequate to redress any excesses in the operation of a dictated peace, so as to make possible a pacific restoration of Europe."

"Such beliefs and hopes have now disappeared. The events of the past four years have shown us industrial and financial ruin, wars, famines, revolutions, spring up in quick succession over large tracts of Europe and West Asia FROM SEED SOWN IN THE PEACE TREATIES AND THE SUBSEQUENT POLICIES OF THE GREAT WESTERN POWERS. The professed conditions of a just and reasonable settlement in these treaties and policies are now seen to have been poisoned by the atmosphere of hate, greed, jealousy and suspicion in which they were conceived and administered."

"But our most intense concern is now centred upon the operations of the Versailles Treaty in the ruthless hands of its chief exponents. Experience has shown that the rigorous administration of that instrument can yield neither of the two chief results for which it was designed: Reparations and security."

"On the contrary, a Sharp Contradiction between these two prime purposes is contained in the fabric of the treaty, not in some simple error or inconsistency, but traversing the entire body of the treaty and penetrating its minutest recesses."

"Everywhere runs the contradictory purpose—the crippling of the economic recovery in the supposed interests of French security, and the demand for reparations on such a scale that a complete restoration of Germany's pre-war resources would not suffice for fulfillment."

"The occupation of the Ruhr is the supreme instance of the menace to civilization contained in France's separate action, and her now manifest determination to impose her will on Europe, regardless even of the plainest obligations laid down in that very treaty to which she constantly appeals in justification of her conduct."

"For though all the Allies are responsible for the follies and injuries contained in the Versailles Treaty, it is notorious that every other government whose will is not dominated by French power now holds it to be unworkable and favors either formal and complete revision, or the more face-saving method of a non-enforcement of its bad provisions. France alone insists upon terms of reparation which all economists and financiers in America as in Europe know and have declared to be impossible."

Some poetry to lighten up the column. It is by Amy Lowell, a well-known poetess:

PATTERNS
I walk down the garden paths,
And all the daffodils
Are blowing, and the bright blue squills.
I walk down the patterned garden paths

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In my stiff, brocaded gown.
With my powdered hair and jewelled fan.

I too am a rare Pattern. As I wander down The garden paths.

Underneath the fallen blossom In my bosom,
Is a letter I have hid.

It was brought to me this morning by a rider from the Duke.

"Madam, we regret to inform you that Lord Hartwell

Died in action Thursday se'night." As I read it in the white, morning sunlight.

The letters squirmed like snakes. "Any answer, Madam?" said my footman.

"No," I told him.

"See that the messenger takes some refreshment."

No, no answer. And I walked into the garden.

Up and down the patterned paths, In my stiff, correct brocade.

In a month he would have been my husband.

In a month, here, underneath this lime,

We would have broken the pattern. He for me, and I for him.

He as Colonel. I as lady. On this shady seat.

He had a whim that sunlight carried blessing.

And I answered, "It shall be as you have said."

Now he is dead. In Summer and in Winter I shall walk

Up and down The patterned garden paths In my stiff, brocaded gown.

The squills and daffodils Will give place to pillared roses, and to asters, and to snow,

I shall go Up and down In my gown.

Georgiously arrayed, Boned and stayed.

And the softness of my body will be guarded from embrace

By each button, hook and lace. For the man who should look me in the dead,

Fighting with the Duke in Flanders, In a pattern called a war.

Christ! What are patterns for?

OPORTO MARKET

The weekly report of the Oporto market received by the Board of Trade shows that the large stocks that were on hand some weeks ago are fast being depleted and a record consumption of 14,000 qtls is given for last week. The figures are as follows:

Stocks, Nfld.	32,200
Consumption, Nfld.	14,000
Stocks, Norg.	4,225
Consumption, Norg.	914

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CONSUMERS KICK AGAINST HIGH COAL PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—(C.P.)—Strong public sentiment exists here backing the demand of governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania that the Interstate Commerce Commission take up and consider the rates charged for anthracite coal, with a view of reducing those rates. All through the states which use anthracite, there is opposition among consumers to being forced to pay more for fuel this winter by reason of the fact that the miners are allowed more pay in the settlement just made. Governor Pinchot takes the view that under the terms of the settlement, the cost of anthracite at the mines is enhanced 60 cents, but that this should not be passed on to the public. He feels that reductions should be made in freight rates which would take care of much of the increased cost, and there is no doubt this represents the general view of the public.

The matter is largely up to the Interstate Commerce Commission. While the President can ask the Commission to take up the question of reducing the rates, he has no power to order it to reduce rates. It is undoubtedly true that if he should ask or urge the Commission to reduce rates or to investigate with a view to reductions, it would be difficult for the Commission to refuse.

In view of the Pinchot letter on the question of lowering rates, there is little doubt that unless federal authorities act and seek to prevent the public from being gouged for higher coal prices, the disposition of coal consumers will be to blame the federal government, especially the administration and the Interstate Commerce Commission. The possibility of far-reaching political effects on Mr. Coolidge is foreseen here. Those parts of the country entirely dependent on anthracite coal will be hostile in the extreme to being forced to pay higher prices.

Kindness to consumers of anthracite from this country are as much interested as the people of the United States in having freight rates reduced. Unless they are reduced, the belief there is that the public will be charged more for anthracite coal this fall and winter. It is plain the administration is not planning to urge Congress to pass a law regulating the price of coal. Without such regulation, the chief medium of relief to the public will be through the "reduction of freight" rates. Powerful railroad influences, of course, will do their utmost to block such reduction.

THE WORLD'S PRESS

A Common Fallacy.
(Manchester Guardian.)
People who live by rhetoric alone sometimes hub the fancy that some abrupt and enormous dismantling of a defective existing social order is likely to be a helpful first step towards an ideal reconstruction. They even toy with metaphors drawn from earthquake and fire and suggest that, if a Manchester or a Sheffield could be grassed from the earth's surface by some convulsion of nature, something of greater physical and moral beauty would necessarily arise in its place. Alas! men and women are made no better than they were by losing their present livelihoods and seeing the policeman swallowed up by a fissure in the earth.

Aids to Navigation.
(Springfield Republican.)

Neither the radio nor sound-ranging materially lessen dependence on the compass. And it happens that the compass itself is passing through a scientific rebirth, though the new type, the gyro-compass, has not come into extensive use. The theoretical advantage of the gyro-compass over the ordinary magnetic compass is that the latter is affected by magnetic currents and areas, to say nothing of the steel in the vessel and the fact that the earth's magnetic pole is not absolutely fixed, while the gyro-compass depends for its action upon the rotation of the earth and constantly seeks the true geographical pole. But all these refinements of science do not permit dispensing with the ordinary lights and fog signals or lessen the need of the utmost caution in approaching land or navigating in proximity to steamer lanes.

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