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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOV. 6.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT

The mother country is on the eve of the greatest political struggle in three generations. It is bound to come whether the House of Lords lays hands on the budget or not.

If Gladstone's advice had been followed the gauge of battle would have been thrown down after the rejection of the home rule bill in 1894, and the issue might have been decided years ago. It was merely postponed by the Boer war, which diverted attention from domestic questions, to the temporary advantage of the Unionist party.

While the budget has precipitated the crisis it is only a secondary cause. No thinking Britisher believes that a chamber constituted like that of the House of Lords can permanently remain co-equal with the House of Commons; but the irrepressible conflict has been hurried by the very classes and interests which have nothing to gain and everything to lose by it; and it looks as though they were even more fatuously resolved upon raising the issue in a form immediately fatal to their own cause. When they threw out the home rule bill they could make a plausible appeal to national feeling or prejudice, but if they reject the budget their motives will be transparently and starkly selfish.

The suicidal course of the House of Lords began before the budget—with the return of the Liberal party to power in 1905, overwhelmed by the people the Unionists virtually remained in power by the grace of the peers. The minority led by Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons, and the majority led by Lord Lansdowne in the House of Lords, have been one organization for all practical—i.e. party—purposes. They conspired to wreck every important measure of the Government excepting the old age pension scheme, to which the Unionists had been committed for many years, though they had made no attempt to redeem their pledge during their long term of office. The education bill, the licensing bill, the bill to abolish plural voting, the town-planning bill, the housing bill, the Scottish land bill, and last but not least the Irish land bill—all of them were mutilated beyond recognition by the partisan peers.

By this gross abuse of its power the House of Lords has absolutely paralyzed popular government. Even if the budget had never been conceived, the Liberal party would have been compelled, as a matter of self-preservation, to challenge the veto of the irresponsible chamber. Whether the peers or the representatives of the people are to control legislation must be the overshadowing question before the country in the election which is close at hand. A victory for the Government would relegate the Upper House to a subordinate position for all time to come, or until the House finally disappeared, as it must in the evolution of democracy. A victory for the Unionists would merely postpone a decision, because the subversion of the Lords would remain the principal plank of the Liberal platform—the only condition upon which it could resume office or give effect to its own programme.

CANADA, THE WORLD'S BREAD BASKET.

Over six hundred million people, or nearly twice as many as forty years ago, are now eating white bread. The demand for it has been steadily growing during recent years until it is now almost universal. Everywhere it is superseding black bread, which means that wheat flour is taking the place of flour made from coarser grains. In addition to the new demand for wheat in China and Japan, the average consumption of it per head of population in countries where it is grown is becoming greater, being now six bushels per annum in the United States, as compared with four and a half bushels twenty-five years ago. Not only are the people eating more of it in the form of bread, but there is an immense consumption of so-called health foods made of wheat products.

Discussing the subject in a United States magazine Agnes C. Laut points out that if the population of the republic (\$7,000,000) is multiplied by six—the number of bushels per head consumed—it will be seen that 42,000,000 bushels are needed to go around in the United States alone.

Calculating on this basis, taking 7,000,000 as the population of Canada, and six bushels per capita as the consumption of wheat, the total consumption is 42,000,000 bushels. The total

wheat production of the Dominion is estimated at 100,000,000 bushels, which leaves us 58,000,000 bushels for export. While, however, the United States appears to have reached the limit of its production, Canada is only making a beginning. Every year sees an immense expansion in the area sown in wheat, and there the day is not far distant when the Dominion will equal the republic as a wheat producing country. The ever-increasing demand for wheat and flour abroad and Canada's steadily expanding production, point to this country's destiny as the world's chief bread basket.

OPENING UP ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The progress made in the work of track-laying and grading on the line of the National Transcontinental Railway is exhaustively dealt with in the report of the commissioners for the fiscal year ended March 31 last.

From New Brunswick to Manitoba the line passes through the districts lettered A to F. New Brunswick being lettered A and Manitoba F. Figures are given to show that at the date named 551 miles of track had been laid on the eastern division, 93 miles of which are in district A, 155 in district B, 26 in district D, and 272 in district F.

The grading on the same division covered 921 miles out of a total of 1,804 miles, being the distance from Moncton to Winnipeg. It might be added here that 1,000 miles from Winnipeg west to Edmonton have been completed and are now carrying freight, and that the entire eastern division, with the exception of the entrance into Winnipeg, is now under contract.

The report also deals with the nature of the country through which the eastern section of the line passes, showing great agricultural possibilities.

District C, which begins at a point four miles east of the Bell River, in Quebec, and runs westerly to the Ontario boundary, comprises 2,712,000 acres, of which 2,500,000 acres are good farming land, and most of the remainder can be made the same by drainage. The soil is good clay, easily drained. This arable land extends much further back, but the commissioners report on the country only so far as explored by their engineers. The timber from Bell River to the Huronian River is principally spruce, balsam and jack pine. All the country is well watered and interspersed with fine lakes and rivers, the Huronian being navigable for steamboats sixty or seventy miles southward toward the height of land.

In district D, commencing on the Ontario boundary, or the 114th mile, and extending to the 155th mile, there are 1,344,000 acres, 60 per cent of which may be fit for cultivation. From the 155th to the 255th mile there is an immense tract equal to any agricultural land in Canada. The country is well watered, having abundance of good arable land, and 200,000 of medium quality, good clay; the belt also extending north.

In district E, from the 255th to the 355th mile, there are about 1,000,000 acres of good agricultural land—a good sandy loam, well watered and timbered, with forests of small spruce, birch and balsam. Arable land is also found in the valleys of the large rivers between the 255th and the 475th mile, there being about 600,000 acres in this tract.

It will thus be seen that, taking portions of districts of C, D and E, being the western portion of Quebec and the northern portion of Ontario, the Transcontinental Railway has opened up the hinterland to the extent of 11,256,000 acres, divided as follows: 2,712,000 acres in district C, 5,214,000 in district D, and 1,600,000 in district E.

Cheapening the cost of education usually cheapens the quality.

Premier McBride's curly hair and Mellin's-food face make his portrait quite a campaign card.

An American plutocrat has left nearly half his fortune of \$60,000,000 to colleges and universities. Canadian millionaires please copy.

Another ministry has been upset in Australia. In the Commonwealth there have an average of two governments a year; in Canada two in a lifetime.

Bishop DuMoulin of Hamilton complains that his income assessment is too low. Some clergymen are so impractical!

Our local contemporary calls him Hon. William Murphy. This is about as accurate as most of its references to members of the Government.

West Middlesex farmers want a representative who will do them credit. Bob McLachlin doesn't fill the bill. If he doesn't know it now, he will discover it next week.

Mr. R. L. Borden, barrister, will speak in West Middlesex. But as Bob McLachlin says, "We have no use for a lawyer in West Middlesex!"

If the Germans want to call a truce to the mad competition in Dreadnoughts, now is the time. A Unionist government in Great Britain would not encourage peace overtures. A war with Germany is an article of the Unionist creed. Like the Boer war, it would divert attention from such questions as the budget is raising.

An Associated Press dispatch says Great Britain is protesting against

China's rapid destruction of the opium traffic. The traffic was forced upon China mainly by British interests, but the conscience and the British people has revolted, and it is amazing to find the influence of the British Government is being exerted to thwart China's attempts to root out the evil. The A. P. must be on a false scent.

NOT UNLIKELY.
[New York Times.]
When the devil feels the need of a good, hearty laugh he goes to a cemetery and reads the tombstone inscriptions.

THE PRECOCITY OF JOB.
[London T. B. L.]
Small Girl—Why doesn't baby talk, father?
Father—He can't talk yet. Young babies never do.
Small Girl—Oh, yes, they do. Job did. Nurse read to me out of the Bible how Job cursed the day he was born.

ALL WORKING.
[Toronto News.]
The Labor Gazette reports most Canadian trades and industries active during September, very little unemployment being noted in any quarter.

ARTHUR STRINGER'S KINDLY THOUGHT.
[Chicago Record-Herald.]
A group of New York literary folk who deplore deeply the fact that Stephen Phillips, the English poet and dramatist, is now in financial straits, have appealed to Mr. and Mrs. William Faversham to give a benefit performance of his poetic drama, "Herod." Mr. Faversham approved of the idea, and such a performance will be given during the run of the play at the Lyric Theatre. The movement was started by a letter written to the actor by Arthur Stringer, but it rapidly gathered force and other literary persons are giving the plan their support.

A STRANGE, WEIRD GIRL.
[S. E. Kiser.]
She was a phantom of delight,
As William Wordsworth might have said;
Her eyes were big and soft and bright,
And faintly she held her head;
Her figure was a perfect all right,
Her teeth were white, her lips were red.

This lady was eccentric, though;
She spoke, and I in wonder stared;
She was most beautiful, I trow,
And to her still her youth was spared;
She'd never had the wish to go,
Upon the stage, so she declared.

THE END OF FAME.
[Scranton Tribune.]
When a great man has had a chrysanthemum, a cigar and several babies named after him, it is time to think of quitting.

HE KNOWS.
[Kingston Standard.]
Lloyd-George knows whereof he speaks. His early life was passed in great poverty. It is said that as a boy he scarcely ever tasted meat, and regarded a fresh boiled egg as a luxury.

PRELIMINARY BOUT.
[Exchange.]
Maude—When does your breach of promise suit come up in court?
Clara—To-morrow morning.
Maude—There, dear, don't cry. I'm sorry to see you so overcome.
Clara—Oh, I'm not overcome, I'm merely practising for the jury.

DREW THE LINE.
[Punch.]
Mrs. Crawford—Did you manage to coax your doctor to recommend a trip to that mountain resort you wished to visit?
Mrs. Crawford—Yes, but I can't go, for I couldn't get him to add that a few new dresses would do me a world of good.

THE ACME OF LAZINESS.
[Philadelphia Record.]
During the progress of a lawsuit a witness was asked whether the defendant was not a lazy fellow.
"Well," answered the man in the box, "I don't want to do the man any injustice. I won't go so far as to say he's lazy, but if it required any voluntary work on his part to digest his victuals he would die of lack of nourishment."

THE OPTIMIST.
[Lippincott's.]
"I'm sorry to hear your mule died," I said to Happy Sam.
"Oh, it's all right, boss," he returned, resignedly. "I ain't got no kick comin'."

UNCLE EZRA SAYS.
[Boston Herald.]
"The only way a blacksmith kin ever git a raise is to strike while the iron is hot."

MEANEST MAN ON EARTH.
[Everybody's Magazine.]
Irate Barber (to customer as he seats him in chair)—You see that guy going out the door?
Customer—Yes. What of it?
Barber—Why, the scoundrel sat in my chair for half an hour and never told me he was deaf.

A SENSIBLE LABORER.
[David Shackleton, Labor M.P., at Sheffield.]
Mr. Shackleton said it was necessary for labor not only to achieve power, but to realize its responsibilities. If it were to hold its own in the councils of town and nation, it would have to do it from merit, from a knowledge of the subject which it tackled, and with an information which would carry conviction. He spoke of the importance of appreciating labor questions from the point of view of the employer as well as the worker, and said a knowledge of the other side of the question would make the trade union official a safer guide not only in the workshop but in the trade union, and would give him a broader view of the case.

COOK AND PEARY AT PUNKIN HOLLOW.
[S. E. Kiser.]
We argued things the other night around the stove in Thompson's store.
Tom Eaton thought that Cook was right and that made Henry Pritchard sore. He argued well on Peary's side and put him high on honor's roll.
In his opinion Cook had lied about his journey to the Pole.

Dave Henderson was half inclined to think the Pearys were wrong. But Abner Page called into Cook with language that was loud and strong: Sim Watson made a few remarks, then and Peckering Doolittle rose. And party soon the blood began to trickle from Joe Humphrey's nose.

They had it there for quite a spell, upset a leg and broke a crock.
Fergitlin' that they might be hurt or suffer from the nervous shock.
Sim Watson called Fred Cass a pup, Ed Parsons got his trousers tore, and then we took the tariff up where it was dropped the night before.

LLOYD-GEORGE'S NEWCASTLE SPEECH.
[Westminster Gazette.]
At Newcastle Mr. Lloyd-George dealt clearly and firmly, if also in a somewhat homely manner, with a situation which calls for clear reasoning. Without railing against individuals he challenged a system which needs to be challenged by

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arguments and illustrations which no opponent has endeavored to answer. He said plainly and firmly what must be said, that if the landlords and wealthy classes are going to upbraid the constitutional system, they will open up questions which will be much more than questions of particular taxes. All that must be said, and it cannot be said in whispering humblyness if the House of Lords is serious in its threat to kill the budget.

HER HAIR.
[Cleveland Leader.]
O wondrous whirl of tangled hair,
So sweet, bewildering and fair!
You tangle round and round my heart
With locks that sting and curl that smart!

You blind me with glittering wealth—
You snare me—capture me by stealth,
And hold me helpless captive there—
All grieved and shackled by your hair!

More fragrant than the perfumes be
That come to us from Araby;
More golden than the skein of gold
That fairy islands can unfold—
You twine and twist and flash and and sing
In mystic, maddening murmuring.
Tell me, most marvellous of stuffs—
How much is hair and how much puffs?

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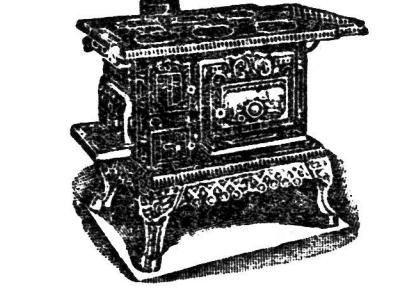
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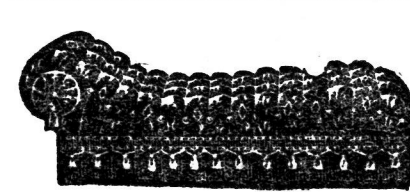
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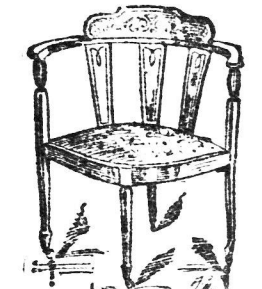
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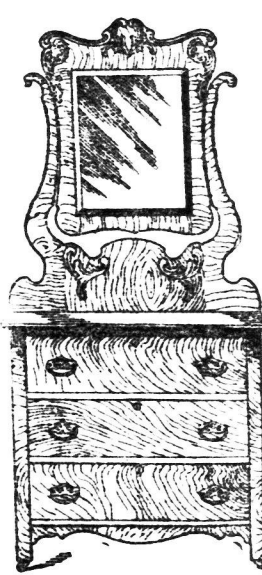
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