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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29.

## THE MONEY BYLAWS.

Ratifiers need have no hesitation in voting down the bylaw for placing Niagara power wires underground in the central part of the city. Why spend \$70,000 in tearing up permanent pavements and disturbing the business streets for months, only to leave the present jungle of poles and wires overhead? There would be much to be said in favor of spending a large sum to bury all the wires, but this is not the intention of the bylaw.

The sum of \$50,000 asked for the construction of storm sewers should be granted. London has an excellent sewerage system adequate for a population of 100,000, but it has been abused by the failure to adopt the recommendations of the engineers who planned it. The actual designer was Mr. Chipman, of Toronto, but his plans were investigated and approved by Mr. X. H. Goodenough, state engineer of Massachusetts; Mr. Hordtke, the Ontario Government's sanitary engineer, and Mr. C. H. Rust, city engineer of Toronto. "They are all agreed," says the report of the Board of Health, on Aug. 15, 1896, "as to the necessity of constructing all new sewers on the separate system (separate sewers for storm water and sewage)."

The storm sewers have not been provided, and as a result the present system is choked and overworked at times, to the discomfort of many householders. The ratifiers are asked to spend \$3,562 a year for thirty years to relieve the sewers of work they were never intended to do.

The sum of \$30,000 is asked for a system of garbage removal, which should have been established years ago. Most communities half the size of London have this convenience. It makes for general health and cleanliness and for a slightly tax. The only defect in the proposed plan is that it does not go far enough. The cost of the collection of garbage should fall upon the general tax rate, like the cost of electric light, and the service should cover every house in the city. This will come in time. If the bylaw is adopted the service may be petitioned for as in the case of street watering. Household will find it cheaper and more satisfactory than the present methods of getting rid of refuse and offal.

## TESTING A NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

South Africa, Tasmania and Belgium are among the countries in which elections have recently been held under the proportional representation system, and everywhere the experiment is declared to be highly satisfactory. The municipal elections held in Pretoria and Johannesburg are pronounced a triumph for the plan. The Star, of the latter city, says it is a conspicuous and unqualified success. The new batch of councillors as nearly as possible constitutes a reflection of the electorate, and offers an additional safeguard against the rejection of tried and well-known men through the operation of purely local intrigue or party jealousy. Neither in Johannesburg nor Pretoria has a suggestion been made that any individual candidate was unfairly affected. The voting public seems to be practically unanimous in the belief that its intentions are accurately reflected by the result. At the same time the elections suggest that the system tends to weaken subterranean intrigue, and also to counteract purely party or local influences.

Equally successful in the test of the system in Tasmania, where the Labor party, which upon the basis of the vote cast was entitled to 11.7 of the seats, actually won 12, while the non-Socialists, who polled 18.3 per cent of the vote captured 18 seats.

In Belgium the Catholic party, in proportion to the votes polled, was entitled to 36 seats; under the new system it won 37. The Liberals and Socialists between them carried 43 seats, while on the proportion of votes cast they would have been entitled to 44. The Christian Democrats secured just the one seat to which they were entitled.

A British royal commission has

been investigating the proportional representation system, and at the present time a select committee of the Dominion House of Commons, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Labor, is engaged in a similar work. More will be heard of the matter at Ottawa when the committee reports. It has been claimed that under such a system no federal government in Canada would have had a working majority since 1878. The committee will probably make inquiries on this point. The plan, if it is sanctioned, will probably be tested in municipal elections before it is carried further.

## A PROTEAN PROGRAMME.

The three Ottawa newspapers are trying to discover the views of Mr. Ellis, the Opposition candidate, on the naval question. The Citizen thinks it knows what Mr. Ellis thinks, but the Free Press and the Journal are still asking for information. Mr. Ellis, in his first public message, wrote that "the proposition for an independent Canadian navy must eventually mean an expenditure of hundreds of millions." Canada, he added, did not need and could not afford the enormous expenditure. "I am opposed to the proposed navy," he went on, and concluded by advocating "the contribution of a Dreadnought to the imperial navy to provide the nucleus of a fleet unit."

The Journal (Conservative) and the Free Press naturally inferred from this language that Mr. Ellis was combating the Canadian navy idea, and favoring the alternative of contributions to the British navy. The Citizen thereupon explained that Mr. Ellis did not mean what he said, or meant something which he did not say. It affirmed, with Mr. Ellis' sanction, that he was in favor of a navy built, manned and controlled by Canadians but pledged to pass under the control of the British admiralty the moment Great Britain should declare war against anybody. The Journal summarizes Mr. Ellis' policy or policies as follows:

"Clearly it is to be seen, then, that Mr. Ellis and The Citizen, being mutually opposed to a Canadian navy, and in favor instead of contributions of ships to the navy of Great Britain, are also firmly in favor of a Canadian navy. This Canadian navy which they both oppose and favor is to consist of ships presented to Great Britain. These ships, having been donated to Great Britain, are in some mysterious way to remain under control of Canada in time of peace. And in time of war these ships, having long before been presented to Great Britain by Canada, are in some equally mysterious way to be suddenly placed by the British admiralty at the service of the British admiralty."

"Upon this platform, on which a voter can stand upon either his head or his heels at one and the same time, The Citizen sees in the candidature of Mr. Ellis the advantage of a referendum in Ottawa which shall convey to the Dominion Government a peremptory warning as to the real feeling of the Canadian people on the naval question. And The Journal concedes that the Dominion Government will be able to infer from a vote upon that kind of platform any kind of warning it likes."

After all, the elasticity of Mr. Ellis' opinions corresponds with the attitude of many of the men who sit behind Mr. Borden in the House of Commons.

The Belgian Socialists want a republic, but they should be thankful that they have at last a decent king.

Canadian farm products are worth \$100,458,000 more this year than last. Nothing could prevent the return of prosperity with such a record as that.

An American authority says the high price of farm products has come to stay. It is not a calamity in a country like Canada, which produces all the food it can consume. The Canadian farmers cannot be enriched without enriching the whole community.

The farmers of the whole world flourish on the British market, yet British agriculture is decaying. The reason is that Great Britain is the only country in the world with a landless peasantry. The profits of agriculture are eaten up in rents, and to increase the market prices by a tariff would be merely to increase the rents of a handful of landlords.

Today is the centenary of Gladstone's birth. He developed naturally from a defender of privilege, a representative of the classes, to be the greatest modern champion of democracy. He presented an instructive contrast to Mr. Chamberlain. The latter reversed the process of evolution. He began as a Radical and ended as a reactionist. The verdict of history upon the two men has been already rendered. Gladstone's memory will grow and live and Chamberlain's will be forgotten a generation hence.

**“A FEARFUL RESPONSIBILITY.”**  
[From the letter addressed by Sir Chas. Tupper to R. L. Borden, leader of the Canadian Conservatives.]  
Under existing circumstances it was of immense importance to have Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his party committed to the policy which secured the unanimous consent of the House of Commons on a question of such vital importance, and a great responsibility will rest upon those who distort that compact.

I cannot understand the demand for Dreadnoughts in the face of the fact that the Admiralty and British Government have determined that it was not the best mode of maintaining the security of the empire, and arranged with Canada and Australia (the latter of whom had offered one or two Dreadnoughts) for the construction of local navies to keep open the

trade routes in case of war.  
All difficulties as to the question of autonomy is now removed, as it is fully recognized that the great outlying portions of the empire are sister nations, and that means are adopted to secure uniformity in the naval forces of the empire in the design and construction of the ships and the training of the officers and men. They are also to be interchangeable, and thus secure uniformity in every respect, so as to act as effective units of the British navy.  
Of course the Government of the day will be held accountable for carrying out the policy thus agreed upon in a thoroughly effective manner, but I cannot avoid thinking that a fearful responsibility will rest upon those who disturb or destroy the compact entered into on this vitally important question.

## THE STORY OF A CHAPEL.

[Lloyd-George at Carnarvon.]  
Those are some of the taxes I will give you an illustration of my last tax all, and a very good one, too (Laughter). It is the reversion tax. This came into my hand yesterday morning. It comes from the trust deed of a Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, and since the monthly meeting voted for it, it must be all right. (A voice: "Quite right," and cheers.) There is a little chapel that was built down in the Gower peninsula by the Calvinistic Methodist body. It was built many years ago, and it will be of interest to you that one of its first ministers was the late Mr. Wyndham Lewis. It is a very small chapel, and did not cost much to build, but the principle is the same. It cost about £50. It is a poor neighborhood, and for years and years, week in, week out, they contributed their copper pennies to keep it going and to paint, decorate and renovate it when necessary. But they had only a lease upon it. It was a lease on a miserable hill land. The whole freehold of the land was not worth more than a few shillings. Just a short time ago that lease came to an end, and they thought it might be renewed. Not at all. The trustees were told that the chapel belonged to the landlord, and they had to buy the chapel back from the landlord. (Cries of "Shame!") A chapel they had built with years of service, they had to buy it back. ("Shame!") They had to pay £25 for the chapel, and they paid for redeeming the chapel, site and all. To take that chapel from them, I suppose, is not robbery. That is not confiscation, when the landlord stipulates by that document that the whole fruit of the labor of generations of members of that little chapel passes at a certain time into his possession. That is law. That is justice. But when a man comes along and says to that landlord, "Here, the state wants money to protect you and your property—laughter—your land, your mansion, your rights, your property, your money to protect you. You must pay £5 out of that £50," they say "Robber!" (Loud cheers.)

## THEIR CLUMSY METHODS.

[Kincaid Review.]  
Ten men have been arrested for stealing Cobalt ore. "Severely" en right? Why didn't they adopt the usual way of organizing a company, issuing a lot of stock, and "doing" the public?

## PARENTAL PRIVILEGE.

[Washington Star.]  
"Clear out of here, you little brat!" shouted the cook, thumping the table with a rolling-pin.  
The little girl gave the cook a naughty look.

"I never allow anyone but my mother to speak to me like that," she said.

## GOD BLESS THEM.

[Houston Post.]  
"What do you think of woman for a voter?"  
"I think every voter ought to have one."

## AN OLD FRIEND'S RETURN.

[Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.]  
The switchman's strike has not yet affected the price of false hair.

## HALLEY'S COMET.

[Walt Mason.]  
I have heard of Halley's comet and the tail protruding from it, and it surely is a hummer if the thing is real, and the through the distant airy spaces it is straining in its traces, bound to reach its destination at the hour when it is due. All the scientists, in chorus, say it is a damned thing's headed for us, by some strange, unknown attraction to our little planet it's drawn; if it jolts against this world we won't have a glacial age, it'll be cooked and turned to ash, as we know what's going on. It will, in festive manner, swing its tail, like some huge hammer, over the surface of this globe, and there'll be a glacial age. This old world will fly to pieces like a flock of frightened geese, and we cannot save the fragments, and our names will all be mud. In this world of rush and hurry men are given much to worry over things not worth the trouble, over griefs that do not hurt; now we have a chance to borrow something from sorrow—let us worry over this comet, starting on the job today! Other woes, in cultured phrases, we shall ask to go to blazes, we are sweating over Halley and his comet with its tail. Let us all be merry and let us talk of naught but Halley, let us show this muley comet how a people doomed can wall!

## KEEN PERCEPTION.

[Washington Star.]  
"I understand that some of the smartest people in town attended your wife's tea."  
"Yes," answered Mr. Camrov. "But I was just as smart as any of them. I knew it wasn't going to be very interesting, so I stayed away."

## A REVENUED REFLECTION.

[Washington Star.]  
"Christmas comes but once a year," said the cheery citizen.  
"Yes," answered the man who takes the north pole home to heart, "but April Fool Day seems to be permanent."

## SANTY'S SUCCESSOR.

[Washington Star.]  
Had a merry Christmas?  
No one will deny.  
That the day was a success;  
But as the hours go by  
The law of compensation  
Proceeds to business.  
The sentiment we cherish  
Are regretful, more or less.

## A LITTLE TOO MUCH CANDY.

A little too much candy.  
A little too much cake.  
A little too much mulling.  
That might promote an ache!  
We've heard from dear old Santy  
And sent him on his way.  
The question of the moment is:  
What will the doctor say?

## AS IT SHOULD BE.

[Boston Herald.]  
"Trusts beget monopolies," remarked the married philosopher.  
"For example?" queried the bachelor.

"Well," replied the M. P., "when a lady feels that she can trust a man she wants a monopoly on him."

## HOCKEY AT PITTSBURG.

Pittsburg, Dec. 29.—Splendid defensive work on the part of Yale players enabled a team to win a hockey game last night from the Carnegie Technical School seven to one. Duquesne Gardens by a score of 4 to 1.

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Daintily embroidered in silk. Trimmed with Valenciennes lace and insertion. Sleeves composed of tucks and insertion. Special ..... \$2.25

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Front beautifully embroidered. Effectively trimmed with pleating, Valenciennes insertion and lace. Showing the very newest sleeve. Special..... \$3.25

## The Great Sale of Fancy and Staple Linens Now On

Many lines very suitable and most appropriate as New Year's Presents are here.  
SEE WINDOW DISPLAY.  
NOTE THE PRICES.

# KINGSMILL'S

## LORDS' POWER WILL SHRINK IF LIBERALS ARE RETURNED

No Intention to Abolish Upper House, But It Will Be Prevented From Blocking Financial Measures and the Hereditary Element Weeded Out.

London, Dec. 28.—What will be done with the House of Lords has pretty definitely been decided upon by the Government should the Liberals win at the coming elections.

Whatever plan may be adopted for government will involve such radical changes in the country's present legislative system that much difference of opinion has naturally existed, both as to ends and methods. The extreme radicals have advocated the complete abolition of the second chamber. Those of a more moderate type demand an elective upper house, an element which may be most accurately described as conservatively liberal has argued for a combination of the elective and hereditary principles.

The group in favor of the single chamber system has been completely overruled. England is too conservative for such an innovation. Between the two other groups of Liberals a compromise has been effected and the programme is this:

## The Programme.

Assuming that the Liberals win at the polls in January, the Lloyd-George budget will be introduced. It will unquestionably pass. The Lords themselves are pledged to cease their opposition to the chancellor of the exchequer's proposals if the country declares for them in the election. That will dispose of the financial problem and leave the Liberals free to turn their attention to the reform of the legislative system. They propose to accomplish it by the constitutional change at which Premier Asquith has been hinting. A bill will be passed by the Commons declaring the Lords unentitled to interfere with any financial legislation passed by the lower chamber. It may be decided not even to send such bills to the Lords for ratification, but even if ratification is required, it will be merely nominal, as the latter will have no veto power.

## Financial Measures.

The next step will be the introduction of a measure providing that any bill, not a financial measure, passed by the Commons, rejected by the Lords, and then re-passed by the Commons, after an intervening election, is to become law without further submission to the upper house.

This will mean that two sessions of parliament and a referendum will be required for the passage of such a controverted measure. It will deprive the Lords of the power to do more than delay fulfillment of the popular will.

## Lords Reduced.

Then will come the last step. The House of Lords will be reduced by legislation to a membership of probably 150, which will include the officeholders whose positions carry peerages with them. The balance of the 150 will be chosen from among the present peers whom the Commons consider to have done something for their country as soldiers, lawmakers or administrators. The original selection will necessarily be somewhat arbitrary, but it will not be permanent.

The members who are peers by virtue of their government offices have always been what is known in England as life lords. Their titles do not descend to their children. This same system will be continued under the new arrangement. The innovation will lie in the fact that the other peers will also only be life lords. Their titles will descend to their sons, but not their privilege to sit in the upper branch.

## Serve Two Sessions.

As these peers die their places will be filled by new members, not necessarily titled, chosen by the House of Commons, either from its own membership or outside of it. The present plan is that these members shall serve for two sessions of parliament. The Commons will make their selections politically in proportion to the political color of their own membership.

House of Lords will include a small proportion of life members, the balance consisting of two-session members of the Commons' selection. The life peers will be nominally appointed by the King, but, inasmuch as these appointments are always made in accordance with the wishes of the leaders of the party in power at the time, they will necessarily represent the majority of the people.

It is conceded that under this arrangement, it will be possible to have upper and lower houses occasionally of different political complexions. With constant changes taking place in both branches, it is argued that this condition will not obtain often, certainly not more often than the same situation arises in the United States and Canada.

## Lords Will Fight.

The Liberals agree that the present Conservative House of Lords may attempt to block this programme by refusal to acquiesce in the bills necessary to carry it out. Should this happen, the Liberal majority in the House of Commons will solve the difficulty by calling on the King to create enough Liberal peers to give them a majority in the upper as well as in the lower house. The King never refuses his premier's requests for the creation of peers, and an attempt to do so in such a case as the one contemplated would render his own dethronement so certain as to place the contingency altogether outside the bounds of probability.

A threat of the kind was made by the Lords by Premier Lord Gray when they attempted to tie up the famous English election reform bill in 1832. The threat alone proved sufficient, the Lords yielding rather than be swamped by an overwhelming number of mushroom members of their own order. The Liberals think history will repeat itself in the present case.

Titles will doubtless continue to be conferred even after the reform of the House of Lords, but they will be mere empty honors, and will carry with them no extra privileges nor the right to participate in the nation's legislative councils. The general view is that as soon as they become valueless, they will begin to go out of fashion, and that the British nobility has, therefore, practically reached the beginning of its end.

## One Vast Picture Gallery.

London, Dec. 28.—With the hoardings, walls and fences covered with highly-colored posters and placards, London is being turned into a vast picture gallery. The Tories can claim the more artistic work for their posters than can the Liberals. Among the new phrases exhibited are the following:

"Radicals shouted against Chinese labor in the Transvaal. The Radicals don't shout Chinese pork for the British."

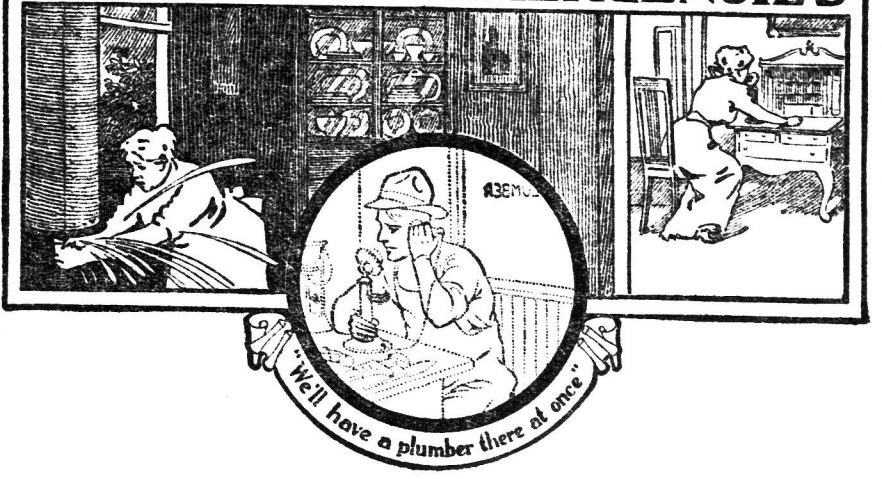
"Who shouted Chinese slavery? The Radicals. Who shouted 'Chinese pork'?"

"Have you heard the Radical on free trade in Chinese pork?"  
Ben Tillett, the well-known trade unionist leader, protested strongly against the surrender of labor to Liberalism. He says that mutual arrangement is not only a surrender of principle, but a betrayal of trust and authority. A well-known Liberal is credited with saying that a half-loaf is better than no loaf, and that it is better to have a majority of Socialist-Labor men than no majority at all.

## Chancellor's Wife Stumps.

London, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Lloyd-George (the wife of the chancellor), is making a tour of North Carnarvonshire, Wales, addressing meetings in support of her husband and the budget. Speaking at Bangor tonight she contended that the budget was perfectly equitable, that tariff reform would make millionaires and beggars, and that in the coming struggle the drink trade would fight for its very life. In London, she declared, free drinks were given to induce customers to vote against the

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BREAKFAST SUPPER CHILDREN  
In strength, delicacy of flavour, nutritiousness and economy in use "Epps's" is unsurpassed.  
"EPPS'S"

## LONDON ADVERTISER'S SPECIAL MUSIC OFFER!

Today's Coupon entitles you to a copy of a popular waltz for ten cents.  
Carnival Waltz is by Oswald Larmer, who is the composer of many other instrumental successes.  
Carnival Waltz is an excellent dancing number. It is very brilliant and not difficult to play.

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To obtain the sheet music above, fill out the coupon, and inclose ten cents in stamps or coin. Address

**LONDON ADVERTISER, MUSIC DEPT.**

**ACTOR MACK DIVORCED.**  
New York, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Alice V. McAlon obtained an interlocutory decree of absolute divorce in the supreme court today from William A. McAlon who is known on the stage as Andrew Mack. It grants to the wife the custody of their only son, Francis A. McAlon.  
Hot Tom and Jerry at the Hotel Troquois, corner King and Clarence. 60c.