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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 22, 1932.

THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.

Mr. Lloyd George returned to London on Saturday, not quite as the conquering hero that it was hoped he would, at least with nothing to regret. It was no fault of his that the Genoa Conference did not accomplish all that he had so earnestly striven for; and, given the opportunity, he may yet show those who are not friendly to him that he still has to be reckoned with. He has made his detractors wince before and history is as likely as not to repeat itself in this respect.

The Celtic temperament is very highly developed in this son of Wales. Like the Irish, the Welshman is impulsive, highly strung people, and their characteristic weakness is a feeling of ruthlessness in temper with distinctive leanings towards virtue's side. In the various negotiations that Mr. Lloyd George has been engaged, he has given proof of his statesmanlike and unprecedented patience, a virtue which he possesses in plenty. It was the exercise of patience that brought about the agreement with the Irish representatives and the Free State Act, and it will probably be found that the game of patience will be as effective in the present crisis of international affairs.

A leader virtually without a party, the head of a Government comprising varying discordant elements, oftentimes the object of bitter criticism, beset by partisan enemies and dependent upon wavering supporters, nevertheless he still remains the outstanding figure in England's public affairs, the one visible hope of stability after all. During his public career he has been assailed in turn by Conservatives, Progressives and Radicals; by the first he has been called a desecrator, by the second a deserter and by the third an instrument of Toryism and tyranny. Yet he still stands up through it all, the only leader in whom any degree of confidence can be placed. A despairing analyst of his career not long ago confessed himself unable to decide whether "the master of the British Empire" was "magician or charlatan, brutal dictator or benevolent autocrat, camouflaged Tory or impetuous Radical." Whatever he is or has been, the fact remains that he has dominated the affairs of the foremost Power of the world for more than seven years, and today has no conspicuous rival for leadership in a country that does not lack men of ability and force.

It is amusing to recall the assaults and intrigues and upheavals which this man has survived, not only in the searching ordeal of the war, but in the more treacherous episodes of the reconstruction period. Critics say he is no more than a supple and not too scrupulous politician. Yet some sound qualifications must have been needed to carry him safely through three years of negotiations which have changed the maps of Europe and Asia and Africa and revolutionized the relationships of the whole world. Since 1916 four great empires—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Russia—have collapsed. Ancient dynasties have fallen, frontiers have been changed, new states have arisen. During that period Germany has had half a dozen different chancellors; France seven premiers; Italy seven ministers. But through it all Lloyd George has remained the preeminent figure of the world, the master of the British Empire, and the director of its destinies.

It is difficult to see a record of achievement, his supremacy is now challenged, the reasons, though complicated, are not obscure. There is at work, in the first place, that inevitable spirit of discontent which arises in time against the ablest leadership; the Athenians grew tired of hearing Aristides called "the just," and Mr. Lloyd George is not more invulnerable than he. All classes in Great Britain feel the pressure of economic distress—unemployment, industrial and business stagnation, widespread unemployment—and the universal feeling is to hold the Government responsible. But the essential and direct inspiration of the drive against the Premier is that he is a coalition minister, and powerful elements in the two principal political parties are determined to bring about, if possible, a restoration of party government.

Yet it is impossible not to look on to admiration at the example of fortitude and courage shown by British Premier. Without remarkable pride and a philosophical way of looking at things, long ago he would have been worn out and incapacitated for his present responsibilities. No one could grapple him a long run, should he decide to take one.

THE END OF GENOA.

The Genoa Conference is over, and the representatives of the various nations who met there, have left for their respective countries. The fact that little of outstanding practical value has been accomplished is, of course, a matter for regret; but the proceedings there have cleared the way for the Conference which is to convene at The Hague in a few months' time, and it may well be that in the interim a clearer understanding may be reached by the nations concerned, and that when the time arrives for their representatives to meet once more, they will be in a more congenial frame of mind.

The chief factor which may conduce to this end is that the United States Government has finally consented to being represented at the Conference when it assembles at The Hague. At least it has agreed to be officially represented on any commission of inquiry into the economic and financial relations between Russia and the rest of the world. If this fact signifies any reversal of the State Department's first refusal to be represented at The Hague, it is wholly to the credit of the President and his chief adviser on foreign affairs.

The wariness of Secretary Hughes concerning the Genoa proposal can of course be understood. Public opinion in America is much less prepared for dealings of any sort with the Moscow Government than is British or Western European opinion, which is due to the fact that there is not the general economic wreckage in America that there is abroad. Secretary Hughes also must safeguard his Mexican policy which is deeply concerned with the protection of the private property of foreigners south of the Rio Grande.

But, on the other hand, the United States Government is not asked to recognize the Soviet Government, while refusing to recognize the Mexican Government. It is not asked to loan Lenin and Trotsky half a billion dollars. It is not asked to repudiate any long-established principle or formula relating to private property. It is not asked to abandon capitalism in favor of communism. None of these impossible things has been asked of the Washington administration. All that was really proposed, when the Genoa Conference broke down, was that the United States as a more or less disinterested party, should join the other Powers in an inquiry concerning the financial aspects of the Russian question; and France, whose policy toward Moscow is very close to that of Washington, made a special appeal for American participation.

AN IRRESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

The Right Hon. Arthur Meighen's criticism of the King Government's subject, introduced to an agitation in Parliament against Hon. George Graham's Militia estimates is justified in the opinion of the Toronto Telegram. "It is," says that journal, "neither responsible government nor democracy in practice for a Government to out and patch its declared legislative programme, after the Minister in charge has announced that the proposed vote is down to the limit of national safety, in response to political pressure."

"Democracy perverted, right or wrong," shouts the Toronto Globe, which endorses the criticism in the Militia estimates. Yet the principle of the King Government's action is clearly indefensible. As time goes on that will no doubt become clear.

"British Parliamentary practice, which is not founded on the ideas of men like Mackenzie King, commits an administration to sticking by its guns. Conduct in Parliament which enables a Government to excuse its lack of performance by reference to disaster in the House goes beyond the safeguard and safety of the British system. If the Ministerial declaration that legislation proposed by the Government is necessary to national safety cannot be vindicated by vote, the Government is irresponsible."

It is said that heretofore there is to be no sex distinction in the New York University's Hall of Fame. Why should there be? Sex distinction, to all outward appearances at any rate, has pretty well disappeared everywhere else.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Weathercock Government.

The weathercock Government in power at Ottawa has shifted with the wind again. Hon. George P. Graham, Minister of Militia and Defence, has met with such a vigorous protest against his policy of returning Canada's embryo navy to the Motherland that he has backed away from his Quebec-Canada policy and announced in Parliament yesterday that the destroyers, Patrician and Patriot, two submarines and four trawlers would be retained in commission. The only vessel to be laid up will be the cruiser Aurora.

After his experience with the militia estimates, when a Quebec revolt forced a backdown, Mr. Graham evidently consulted his French-Canadian followers first. This time it is his English-speaking supporters, led by The Globe, who have rebelled. The first naval policy, or lack of naval policy, was a humiliating and shameful one, which, to quote The Globe, was such that "national respect will not sanction it."

The Free Press is also to see Mr. Graham's change of front for the welfare of Canada. "Do not let us humiliate the name of democracy by calling that sort of thing 'democracy.' It is impotent, it is hopelessness; it is drift, sterility and inefficiency. I think the minister really believes at this moment that he would be doing better by the country to stand by the estimates he first proposed. I believe he wants to do the right by the country—if he had the strength essential to his office. But he should have courage as strong as his desire is pure. I believe he now returns covered by his followers, driven and beguiled by them, for nothing else can explain his course. For my part I prefer to rest on his opinion, uncorrected, unelaborated, unbludgeoned as expressed to us only a fortnight ago. I prefer that course to accepting as the basis of my judgment a 'what-if' answer on the Government by the exigencies of politics and the threats of caucus."

Sir George Foster, (London Free Press). "Those who knew Sir George Foster best have no fears that he would ever 'rust in idleness' in the House of Commons. He is at the age when the majority of men are off the field, but he is today perhaps the most active force in Canada in advancing the work of the League of Nations, in the organization of which he had a part as a representative of Canada."

Sir George is coming to London on Friday to attend a meeting of the Kiwanis Club at noon and a public meeting at night in the Collegiate Institute auditorium. He should have a capacity audience to hear him on both occasions. The cause of world peace depends in no small degree upon the success that attends the great experiment now being tried out in the League of Nations. No one who has been privileged to speak of its work is better equipped to speak of its work than Sir George Foster, and none could have been chosen by the Canadian League who would present the case more eloquently.

Sir George is one of the veterans of Canadian Parliamentary life. He served as a minister of the crown under Sir John Macdonald; he fought gallantly through the long days of Conservative Opposition between 1896 and 1911, and he served with distinction as a minister in the Borden and Meighen cabinets. He is a long and busy life that he can look back upon, but the task to which he is setting himself today, the advancement of world peace, is as important as any in his career. London should give Sir George a hearty welcome and a large and representative audience on Friday night.

Chas. Torgue. "A world enquiry into the value of ocean tonnage has been completed by officials of the United States Shipping Board. The investigation was of special value at Washington because of the big dispute in Congress respecting a subsidy to the American merchant marine, and the problem of disposing of the Government ships at a great loss. The Board finds that \$20 is now an average price per deadweight ton for freighters of ordinary capacity. New tonnage can be built from British shipyards at \$10 a ton, which is virtually pre-war price. Contracts are taken at from \$50 to \$70 a ton by these yards."

This tonnage price may be taken as a guide or a benchmark. It means that all the war-time vessels, built at \$200 a ton, are five-fifths dead loss. Canada's Government merchant marine had an average cost of \$200 a ton, but the special circumstances under which this programme of construction was undertaken, and the need of this Canadian tonnage in the years of trade congestion following the war, gave it a national value quite offsetting the bookkeeping deficit. The United States really overbuilt its Government fleet, creating about ten million tons, in addition to the two or three million tons of private shipping then existing. The loss on this is stated to be about three billion dollars. Now the Shipping Board is estimating a reduction of perhaps 50 per cent in the American marine, giving the country six or seven million tons for which employment can be found in domestic service."

The peculiar condition caused by the great slump in tonnage prices is working to the advantage of the German shipbuilders. The British and other Allied Governments took over Germany's merchant marine at a time of high valuation. The Germans are now building tonnage at the low wartime level. They will be able to operate these \$50 to \$60 a ton ships on that cost basis, against the much higher average of war-time ships in British, the United States, and other countries. The outlook is for better competition, and even closer prices—especially in the ocean passenger business—is all maritime phases."

It is said that the great advantage of these Scotch-colored silk stockings is that during a rendered anonymous—yes—you can't tell the hole from "the spider."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS

Weather. All right if it don't rain. Enter! Big Hero. A lady told Puds Simkins he saved her life last birthday afternoon. He was sitting on his front steps and she stopped going past and asked him if he would please go in and get her a glass of water on account of her being so thirsty. With Puds did and she drank it all the way to the bottom and Puds asked her if she felt like another glass on account of her looking like another one. And he got her another one and she drank that all the way to the bottom and said "Thank you, you have saved my life."

Pome by Skinny Martin. HONEST BUT FOOLISH. George Washington chopped down a cherry tree. And said, I cannot tell a lie, I did it with my little hatchet. But I really don't know why.

Sincerely. Mr. Artie Alexander had a birthday party last Thursday and everything was going on when Mr. Ed Wernick and Mr. Lew Davis, being among those not invited, rang the front bell and asked for Mr. Artie Alexander as if they didn't even know there was a party, and Mr. Alexander's mother invited them in out of politeness and they stayed the night.

Interesting Facts About Interesting People. Sam Crossen's baby sister Udeen nearly has a tooth, Sam saying everybody in the family being just as stuck up as if she really had it already but the baby keeps on crying as if she was ashamed of the idea.

THE LAUGH LINE

Just Couldn't.

He—No mine, and you will make me the happiest man in the world. She—I'm very sorry, I can't. You see, I want to be happy myself.

Anti-Wait.

A solicitor offered to make the payment of a debt easy for a girl, and said: "I don't want to press you."

The Girl.

"And I'll see that you don't!"

His Stock.

Asked if he had a good stock, a general dealer, appearing at Bow, said: "Yes, a wife, six children, a mother-in-law, a grandmother, a cat, and four kittens."

It May Be True.

"Let me see, Mrs. Plighty has been divorced four times. Has she not?" "Only three, so far as I know; but then, I haven't seen the evening papers."

Her Fault.

Asked a woman's character in the Bow County Court, another woman said: "Well, to tell you the truth, she isn't liked in the street—she pays her rent regularly."

An Effective Sign.

Suburbanite—Since my hens read the sign on my back fence, they have been flocking round my cellar window. Finally I opened it (for them and have been getting into it ever since.

Urbanite.

"I'll bite. What was the sign?" Suburbanite—"Lay in coal now!"

Useless Change.

A woebegone-looking traveller reached the riverbank and approached the ferry across the pretty stream.

"Dad," he whined, "I'm broke, and I must get across the stream. Will you?"

HEART WOULD BEAT LIKE A TRIP HAMMER

Heart trouble has of late years become very prevalent. Sometimes a pain catches you in the region of the heart, now and then your heart skips beats, palpitation, throbs, or beats with much rapidity and violence you think it is going to burst.

You have weak and dizzy spells, sinking sensations, are nervous, irritable and depressed, and if you attempt to walk upstairs or any distance you get all out of breath.

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A friend suggested I try Wilburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, so I procured three boxes, and by the time the first one was used I began to improve. In all I took six boxes, and now although in my 66th year I feel like a young girl; no dizziness or heart-thumping, and can walk miles without fatigue. At time of sickness I weighed 120 lbs., now I weigh 150."

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If it has been running eighteen months since it was last cleaned and oiled. Ordinarily at the end of six months the oil in a watch begins to deteriorate and the timekeeping qualities are affected. At first the change is very slight and it is only in fairly advanced and closely rated watches that the variation is noticed. But later even the unsophisticated watch shows more or less variation and in order to have satisfactory timekeeping service the old oil must be removed and new oil supplied.

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