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LONDON, TUESDAY, DEC. 21.
THE CANADIAN AND THE BRITISH FARMER.

The tariff reform programme launched by the Birmingham Post, the organ of the Chamberlain family, has excited general interest. The London Standard and the London Morning Post, the most militant tariff reform champions among the great London dailies, criticise the programme in some particulars, but agree with the Post on one point. Says the London Daily News:

"There all agree that there is to be a duty on wheat, a shilling duty on colonial wheat, and a two-shilling duty on foreign wheat; and they all agree that this preference will bind the empire together and that it will not raise prices. These tariff 'reformers' are unanimous only in the most grotesque of their absurdities. Food prices will not rise, so runs the tariff 'reformer's' argument, because the foreigners will pay the duty. But if the foreigner pays the two-shilling duty, the colonial must pay the shilling duty. It follows, therefore, that if prices do not rise the net result of the preference which is to bind the empire together will be to make the colonial farmer pay a shilling duty where before he paid nothing, and so cut down his profits by one shilling a quarter. Was any scheme equally extravagant ever before hatched outside a lunatic asylum?"

The incidence of tariff duties is a perennial subject of controversy among economists, not to speak of politicians. Even free traders admit that in certain circumstances a portion of a custom tax may fall upon the exporter, but it would be an exceedingly rare exception to the rule. While the British tariff reformers are for election purposes using the cry "the foreigner pays the duty," their arguments point in the opposite direction. When they promise to reduce the duty on tea, sugar, cocoa, raisins and tobacco to offset the proposed taxes on grain and meat, they virtually admit that the latter would be paid by the British people.

There would be no advantage to British agriculture if the price of food-stuffs were not raised by the duties. To placate the landlords the tariff reformers have been obliged to incorporate a tax on Canadian and other colonial products in their programme, though Mr. Chamberlain specifically exempted the daughter nations from his scheme of taxation when he first propounded it. It would be contrary to all experience, however, if the British landlords would be satisfied with a duty a trifle over three cents a bushel on Canadian wheat, if a little tariff agreed with them, they would cry, like Oliver Twist, for more. They would be constantly agitating for higher protection against Canadian, Australian and New Zealand competition. The rising price of food would also embitter the working classes of Great Britain, as in Germany. How all this would promote imperial unity and concord, some Britishers may be forgiven for failing to see. Perhaps they have not risen to the high plane of imperial thinking recommended by Mr. Chamberlain.

A WHARF DEAL.
Here is the Toronto Mail and Empire's version of the Richibucto wharf "scandal":

"A pile of sawdust and decayed slabs lay on the bank of the Richibucto River. No one wanted it. No one could make use of it. The owner was willing to sell it, and had offered it to the Government for \$1,000. This offer was refused on the ground that the owner was 'on the wrong side of politics.' Then the party leader in the district appeared upon the scene and proposed to buy the rubbish for \$700. A bargain was struck, and the sawdust changed hands. But the local leader did not hold the sawdust wharf for long. The sawdust and the slabs were promptly sold to the country for \$5,000. Here was a rake-off of \$4,300. Somebody 'on the right side of politics' got \$4,300 to which was not entitled."

The Mail and Empire is not an unprejudiced or trustworthy source of information on Government deals. The property may have been honestly overvalued by an official of the public works department. There may be nothing in the imputation of graft, or of collusion between any representative of the department and local party workers. The story of the \$700 purchase may be invention, for all the public knows. Members of the Opposition, however, are making charges which should be answered. An explanation will no doubt be forthcoming when the Minister of Public Works has looked into the case.

THE RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Some interesting information concerning the work of one of the most important, though newest, courts of the Dominion, is contained in the report of the board of railway commissioners for the year ended March 31 last.

This tribunal, as originally constituted by the present Dominion Government four or five years ago, consisted of three members, but the pressure of work became so great that it was found necessary over a year ago to double the number. At the present time there is one vacancy, due to the death of Hon. Thomas Greenway. Once a month regular sittings of the board are held in Ottawa, and special sittings are held in various cities of the Dominion, as occasion requires. A special sitting will be held in London early next month to consider the question of track elevation.

Last year 29 public sittings were held and 2,479 applications considered, an increase of 254 over the preceding year. Filings and outgoing letters totalled 51,913—an increase of 6,488; orders issued, 2,249, or 462 more than in 1907. Of the 2,479 applications, 757 were heard at public sittings, 2,742 being disposed of without the necessity of a hearing.

For the maintenance of this board, Parliament last year appropriated \$168,000, of which \$55,000 went for salaries of commissioners, and secretary, \$102,000 for maintenance and operation, and \$10,000 for expenses of public sittings. The actual expenditure, \$136,969 17, is \$31,030 83 less than the appropriation.

The board is clothed with the full powers of a court of law, but it is free from the inelasticity and formality inseparable from ordinary court procedure. Since its organization it has been instrumental in securing a reasonable regulation of the transportation companies, with due regard to the rights and interests of both the companies and the public, and in that alone has justified its creation.

THE BRITISH NONCONFORMISTS.
Referring to the agitation in Great Britain over the educational question, the London Free Press says:

"This journal protests against the mischievous attempt of The Advertiser to place it in a position that it does not occupy. We did state that the creed cry had been raised, and that the Liberals had raised it for political effect. That the creed cry has been raised is shown by Rev. J. A. Macdonald, editor of the Toronto Globe, who writes: 'It is to be regretted, sincerely and profoundly regretted, that religion should be so mixed up with politics that religious prejudices and passions should enter as a factor in a political campaign.'"

We have no desire to pay our neighbor in its own coin by misrepresenting it. The Free Press says that it did not accuse the Nonconformists of raising a creed cry; it blamed only the Liberal party on that score. How is the following passage from the Free Press to be interpreted?

"The Nonconformist is being arrayed in hostile attitude against the Lords as the special friends and saviors of the Established Church. Preachers have taken to the political platform, and all manner of indignant assertions are made. The very presence on the political stump of these clergymen is calculated to arouse religious antagonism among the people."

If the Free Press had no thought of reproaching the Nonconformist clergy, it was unfortunate in its use of English. It has grossly misrepresented Mr. Macdonald by tearing out of his sentences from its context. In the same article the Globe's editor said: "Is it greatly to be wondered at that Nonconformity today is stirred to its heart's core, and that politicians like Lloyd-George, into whose souls the iron has pierced, sometimes speak words that burn like coals of fire? If there was one thing the Lords could do to exasperate Nonconformists, that thing was done, and done, too, after the most maddening fashion."

MEN OF MANY ACRES.

[London Correspondence N. Y. Sun.] The total area of the United Kingdom of Great Britain is about 77,000,000 acres. When the last Domesday Book was prepared it was found that the peers owned 16,411,886 acres, or more than one-fifth of the whole. Now that the land tax has been rejected by the House of Lords the Radical papers are publishing lists of titled owners, with the number of their acres beside their names, to show their reasons for voting against a budget which contained a land tax. Here are some of the figures:

Duke of Sutherland	1,358,545
Duke of Buccleuch	489,103
Marquis of Breadalbane	435,358
Earl of Seafield	305,830
Duke of Richmond	280,409
Duke of Fife	249,229
Duke of Devonshire	198,572
Duke of Northumberland	186,297
Duke of Portland	183,189
Duke of Argyll	175,114
Marquis of Conyngham	166,710
Marquis of Donegal	162,996
Duke of Hamilton	157,386
Marquis of Lansdowne	142,916
Earl of Dufferin	138,021
Marquis of Strathmore	132,903
Marquis of Downshire	120,189
Marquis of Bute	116,668
Earl Fitzwilliam	115,742
Earl of Stair	109,955
Baron Leconfield	109,955
Duke of Montrose	103,447
Earl Cawdor	101,657

FREQUENT SOURCE OF RESSENTMENT.

[Washington Star.] "What makes that man dislike you so much?"

"I haven't the faintest idea," answered the student of human nature. "Probably he has played me some underhand trick that I don't know anything about."

A MATTER OF COURSE.

[Montreal Star.] Canada is passing through a stage when the budget is taken as a matter of course—like big crops and a lot of other good things.

TOLSTOY AND HAPPINESS.

[New York Sun.] Count Tolstoy's latest prescription for the attainment of human happiness, says the Investigator of Kiev, is contained in a letter which he wrote the other day to a little girl named Sonia Rubinstein, who lives near that city, in answer to her inquiry whether there was a God who lived in heaven, and whether it was permissible to write letters on the Lord's Day. The aged count wrote in reply:

"God is not in heaven, but dwells within each of us. God is love. God is all living things. We only know God through love. God's whole law is that we love Him and our neighbor. The greatest happiness in the world is to love all."

DISTINGUISHED FRENCHWOMEN.

[New York Sun.] The women readers of an evening paper have been voting on the most distinguished living women in France. The result of the 127,550 votes cast places Mme. Curie of radium fame, at the head of the list, with 9,448 votes. Sarah Bernhardt, next with 9,256. Then Juliette Drouin, the telegraph heroine of the Franco-Prussian war, who died a few days before the poll closed, scored 8,777. The remaining seven are the Duchesse d'Uzes, Mme. Bonaparte, Gyp, the writer; Comtesse de Noailles, the poet; Sorel, the actress, who says that a man needs \$20,000 a year to dress on; and Mme. Imbert, another heroine of the war.

LOOKING THEM OVER.

[Fliegende Blätter.] (To rich banker)—I have come to ask for the hand of one of your charming daughters.

R. B.—Just wait a minute, and I'll see if there's one left.

TWO REASONS.

[Washington Star.] "What led you to go into politics?" "For two reasons," answered Senator Sorghum. "I wanted to see whether I couldn't do something for my country, and I also wanted to see whether my country couldn't do something for me."

BRAINS VS. PREJUDICE.

[Manchester Guardian.] The speeches of Lord Cromer, Lord Balfour, of Bournemouth, and the Archbishop of York, all of them Unionists, form as memorable a set of warnings as any rash body of men ever refused to listen to. It is hardly exaggerating to say that the intellect and the moral power of the Unionist party in the House of Lords have in this debate separated themselves from its passions and vainly attempted to save it.

TO MY WIFE.

[Thomas Hood.] Those eyes that were so bright, love, Have now a dimmer shine— But all they've lost in light, love, Was what they gave to mine: But still those orbs reflect, love, The beams of former love, And that ripen'd all my joys, my love, And untied all my frowns!

DEFINITION OF TACT.

[Lippincott's.] Mrs. Pym—Mrs. Blank certainly possesses tact. Mrs. Hyne—What is your definition of tact? Mrs. Pym—Tact is a woman's ability to make her husband believe he is having his own way.

THE WILY NEPHEW.

[Fliegende Blätter.] Rich Aunt (as her nephew, who has come to meet her, kisses her profusely)—Leave off, Karl; I haven't that much with me.

MORE FORTUNATE.

[Boston Transcript.] Percy Noodles (to the street)—How do, Miss Wright? You are really the only person I've met today worth stopping to speak to. Miss Wright—Indeed, Mr. Noodles. You are more fortunate than I am.

Strong Help For Weak Kidneys

"Fruit-a-tives" is the Best Kidney Medicine in the World.

As people only realized the danger of Weak Kidneys and the value of "Fruit-a-tives" there would be practically no Kidney Disease in Canada. When the kidneys become congested (too full of blood), or strained from overwork, they can quickly be made well and strong again by taking a box or two of "Fruit-a-tives." Pain in the back, frequent headaches, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, coated tongue, constant desire to urinate—these are the common symptoms of congestion of the kidneys. The only possible way to relieve this congestion is to force the bowels and skin to rid the system of more waste matter, and thus allow the inflamed kidneys to rest, and grow strong again. "Fruit-a-tives," being fruit juices, intensifies, soothes and stimulates the kidneys, and at the same time rouses the bowels and skin to healthy action. "Fruit-a-tives," by their prompt action on bowels and skin, almost instantly relieves the intense pain in back, and promptly takes away every trace of Kidney Disease. If you are suffering with your Kidneys begin at once to take "Fruit-a-tives," and you will quickly realize the value of these tablets. At dealers, 50 cents a box, six for \$2.50, or trial size, 25 cents, or from Fruit-a-tives, Limited, Ottawa.

THE TONG WAR

Eight Murders Already Following the Elopement of a Slave Girl.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 21.—Long King Chong, editor and publisher of the Chinese Free Press, secretary of the Chinese Masons and chief aide of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, a revolutionist, for whose capture the Pekin Government is said to have made a standing offer of \$50,000, has been arrested on an indictment, charging him with murder in connection with the feud between the Yee family and the On Yick Tong.

The fight between the Yees and the On Yicks rose over the elopement of Bow Gee, an On Yick slave girl, with a Yee family man. Eight murders have been committed by the warring factions. The Chinese merchants have received a telegram from the Chinese minister at Washington, asking for details of the war and its origin. This is thought to indicate that the Chinese Government will take a hand in suppressing the feud.

Every SOX and BOX

of candy should have a box of CASCARETS in the bottom. Then eat and be merry, but at bed time remember to take your CASCARET, the one medicine that will help you help nature get rid of the extra load without grip or gripe and that awful upset sick feeling. Buy a 10c box CASCARETS—week's supply—and have it handy to use every night, Xmas week.

CHAPMAN'S KID GLOVES

Are Safe Gifts

Our assortment of Gloves embraces every kind in demand. Qualities are tried and true—the safe kind to buy for presents.

Guaranteed French Kid Gloves, ladies' and misses' \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50
White Gloves, for theatres and parties..... \$1.00 to \$2.50
Fur-lined Gloves for the woman whose hands are sensitive to the cold..... \$2.00 and \$2.50
Wool-lined Kid Gloves, with fur tops; a cosy glove \$1.25, \$1.50
Mocha Gloves, wool-lined, at \$1.00, \$1.25
Heavy English Walking Gloves \$1.00, \$1.25
Kid Mitts, wool-lined, and fur top \$1.00, \$1.25
Children's French Kid Gloves 50c and 75c
Children's Mocha Mitts 50c and 75c

New Sweater Coats

A Sweater in a Christmas box—Could anything be more exactly what a girl or woman wished for than that? All sorts of Sweaters in white, cardinal, grey and navy, at \$2.25 to \$5.00

Blouse Sweaters, in the same colors \$1.75

When in Doubt Give Books

Books for boys and girls and young people are to be found in the Book Section in great variety at prices that are the lowest in the city. It is the place to come for Christmas gifts.

Alger Books for boys, by Horace Alger.....17c and 25c
Henty Books for boys, 17c
and 25c
Gordon Stables' Books for boys
50c and 75c
Ballantyne's Books for boys,
17c to 40c
Talbot Baines' Reed's Books
for boys 75c
Elsie Books for girls.....17c
Pansy Books for girls.....17c
E. P. Roe's Books.....17c
Rosa N. Carey's Books for
girls 25c
Amey Le Feuvre's Books for
girls....40c, 50c and 75c

J. H. Chapman & Co. 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.

ZELAYA'S SUCCESSOR

New President of Nicaragua Is Young and Considered Able.

Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 21.—Dr. Jose Madriz, the newly-elected president of Nicaragua, who took the oath of office this morning, was formerly minister of foreign affairs. He is comparatively young, a lawyer and author. He represented Nicaragua at the Central American court of justice at Cartage, and was chairman of the Nicaraguan delegation of the Central American peace conference held in Washington in 1907, being elected secretary of the conference.

Madriz is said to have been closer to Zelaya than any of the former president's associates. He is considered an able man.

MR. FOY'S POLACK FRIENDS.

[Toronto Star.] The Foy Club, composed entirely of Poles, has been formed in this city. The polack sounds like a busy day in a boiler factory.

PILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS.

PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of Piles, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days, or money refunded. 50c.

ASHPLANT'S

"THE GOOD SHOE STORE"

Christmas Gifts That Will Be Appreciated

An old saying and a true one is this: Nothing wears like leather when well put together. Then why not buy the gift you wish to bestow in a store that is filled to capacity with all kinds of well-made Leather Goods?

Our reputation as dealers in High-Class Footwear stands unchallenged, and this season with the extra space that our new store gives us, we have added a special department of leather goods, comprising Hand-Bags, Purses, Wallets, Bill Folds, Collar Boxes, Music Rolls, etc., and they do make dandy Christmas gifts.

It will pay you to compare our prices:

Men's Pigskin Coin Purses.....	25c
Women's Card Cases 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00	
Men's Bill Folds.....	35c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50
Women's Combination Purses 50c, 75c, \$1.00	
Men's Wallets.....	50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50
Men's Collar Boxes (all leather).....	75c, \$1.00
Women's Hand-Bags, a special at.....	50c
Women's Leather-Lined Bags, all leather, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.00	
Music Rolls and Cases.....	75c, \$1.00, \$2.00
Women's Grain Leather Hockeys, padded tongue.....	\$1.50
Women's Box Calf Hockeys, 4 stays, padded tongue.....	\$2.00
Women's Tan Calf Hockeys, 4 stays, padded tongue.....	\$2.00
Boys' Grain Hockeys, padded tongue.....	\$1.50
Boys' Chrome Calf Hockeys, tan tongue and stays.....	\$1.75
Men's Chrome Calf Hockeys, 4 stays.....	\$2.00
Men's Box Calf Hockeys, tan tongue and stays.....	\$2.50
Women's Red, Brown, Black Felt Juliet's	\$1.00
Women's English made Velvet Juliet's.....	\$1.00
Women's French Felt Juliet's, very fine.....	\$1.25
Women's Kid Juliet's, jersey lined.....	\$1.50
Women's German Felt Slippers.....	50c, 65c
Women's Kid and Patent 4-strap Slippers	\$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75
Women's Patent Colt Pumps \$2, \$2.50, \$3.00	
All colors in Bourdoir Slippers.....	\$1.35
Imitation Alligator Slippers, tan or black 75c	
Fancy Figured Velvet Slippers.....	75c, \$1.00
Cozy German Felt Slippers.....	50c, 75c, \$1.00
All Tan or Black Alligator Slippers.....	\$1.00
Chocolate or Black Dongola Slippers.....	\$1.25
Chocolate or Black Vici Kid Slippers.....	\$1.50
Romeo Cut Slippers, elastic sides.....	\$1.50, \$2.00
Boys' Soft Grain Slippers.....	75c
Boys' Chocolate Kid Slippers.....	\$1.00

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WE SELL SKATES AND ATTACH THEM FREE OF CHARGE.

Hubert Ashplant & Sons

"The Good Shoe Store"

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A Most Acceptable Gift for Any Woman

A pair of this world-renowned Shoes will be sure to please the most exacting taste.

We will exchange any pair after Christmas.

Prices \$4, \$4.50, \$5 a Pair