

## The Standard



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SAINT JOHN, SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 3, 1910.

## POLITICAL ISSUES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The British election campaign opens today with contents in sixty-three constituencies, including some of the London boroughs. The fight is on; a fight, the most momentous in the history of the British constitution. Protection for the moment becomes a side issue, and the struggle centres around the acceptance of one of the two alternative proposals for the reform of the House of Lords, and the old but burning question of Home Rule for Ireland.

Of the alternative veto schemes now before the British people, the Conservative platform provides:— That no man can inherit a seat in the House of Lords.

That the Lords of Parliament shall comprise three groups: one elected by peers from among themselves, one holding seats by virtue of office or position in the nation, and one elected by the outside people in some way to be provided.

That the chamber so reformed shall forego the right to deal with money bills, in which the provisions are purely financial.

That in respect to other legislation, if the two chambers are unable to agree in two successive sessions, they may meet together and determine the issue on a joint vote, providing that in grave questions the issue may be submitted to the electors by a referendum.

No method is suggested to determine whether a question is grave enough for a referendum, but it is proposed that a joint committee shall decide whether money bills have other and foreign matters concealed on their premises.

As opposed to this programme the government submits no readjustment or change in the constitution of the House of Lords. But Mr. Asquith proposes:—

That the House of Lords shall not interfere with money bills, and the House of Commons shall determine whether a measure proposed is a genuine financial measure.

That all other measures shall become law if three times passed by the House of Commons in successive sessions in the course of two years or more, though the House of Lords should reject it on every occasion.

Mr. Asquith also proposes that no parliament shall continue more than five years. Incidentally he promises to introduce a measure for the payment of members.

Lord Rosebery who more than any other British statesman in recent years has come to be regarded as a free lance in politics, speaking at Manchester thus pointedly, defines the issues at stake:—

"This is just what lies before you. A reformed 'Upper Chamber' without hereditary right, with large 'popularly elected elements, with its relations with the 'House of Commons strictly defined by an agreement by which the Commons must be preponderant; that is on the one hand. On the other hand is the House of Lords kept as it is, hereditary principle and all, a great, helpless body, restrained as lunatics were, 'strained in the eighteenth century, chained, muzzled, 'impotent either for good or evil, side by side with an 'omnipotent salaried Chamber, with every power to add 'to its own power and emolument absolutely unchecked. 'I defy anybody wherever he may speak or wherever he 'may be, to deny that this is the option before the 'electors."

In answer to Lord Rosebery's plea for a 'strong and efficient Upper Chamber, Mr. Churchill at Dundee asks: "Strong against whom? Efficient for what purpose? Strong to resist the people, efficient to mutilate and destroy Liberal legislation." Mr. Churchill reiterates the Liberal battle cry "Shall the people rule?"

The question of Home Rule is prominent in this election more by reason of the fact that the Nationalists hold the balance of power and are in a position to force the issue. The Unionists are taking every advantage of the situation. "Irish dictation," "Will you be ruled by American dollars or the British sovereign?" "Unionism means safety" are expressions which figure conspicuously in campaign speeches. Unless the temper of the constituencies, outside of the Home Rule provinces in Ireland, has undergone a wonderful change, the Unionists with the revival of this issue have a strong weapon of attack. Their challenge to submit the question of Home Rule to a referendum is a master stroke in political strategy. The Nationalists and their allies are well aware that the electorate would not grant the type of Home Rule they would be compelled to demand, and, in the alternative, by refusing a referendum they are opposing democratic principles to which the Unionists confidently appeal.

On this side of the Atlantic, owing to the periodical visits of Mr. Redmond and his friends, who paint pictures of a united and happy Ireland under a national government, the uncompromising attitude of the inhabitants of Ulster in opposition to Home Rule is liable to be lost sight of. In England the stand taken by the Irish Protestants has always been a strong argument for opposing the Nationalists' demands.

The recent demonstration in Belfast, attended by delegates from every Ulster constituency, at which a resolution was adopted to draw up a solemn declaration refusing to pay rates or taxes imposed by a Dublin parliament or obey its decrees, while \$50,000 was subscribed on the spot to organize the Ulster men into regiments and purchase arms, will have its effect against the government.

To anyone familiar with the uncompromising and aggressive Protestantism of the North of Ireland, this declaration will not be merely "sound and fury signifying

nothing," as Nationalist orators prefer to regard it. Irish Protestants believe, rightly or wrongly, that Home Rule would mean the undue influence of the priests and the Church in the political system, with consequent danger to Protestant freedom. The Belfast resolution will carry weight in British constituencies, and is already being made the most of by political speakers. To quote Lord Milner, "Home Rule is an abominable measure, certain to produce civil war."

It is only necessary to suppose the House of Lords abolished or muzzled, and Home Rule an accomplished fact to come face to face with the problem, What would England do in case Ulster should appeal to the arbitrament of the sword? How could she compel a part of the Irish people to pay taxes to a Government in which they would refuse to be represented? How could she lend her soldiers to suppress the very men who have fought to maintain her supremacy on Irish soil? These are questions, which, in the past have forcibly presented themselves to the electorate, and will again in the present crisis.

The British House of Commons at the recent dissolution was constituted as follows:—

Liberals	275
Conservatives	273
Labor	40
Nationalists	71
Ind. Nationalists	11
Lib.-Lab. Majority over Cons.	42
Lib.-Lab.-Nat. Majority	124

This was the result at the close of the pollings last January; and the seventeen by-elections, held since then, failed to bring about a single change in the representation of the constituencies.

The Liberals, Laborites and Irish Nationalists, who are supporting Mr. Asquith's programme, present a formidable coalition, but reports indicate that the sentiment in favor of the attitude of the Unionists is gaining ground. It is significant that "even" money is now offered that the government's coalition majority will be reduced from 124 to below 50, which would mean a gain of 32 seats for the Unionists. Should the Liberal Government with its allies be returned with a greatly reduced majority, it is freely predicted that Mr. Asquith would resign and that Mr. Balfour, the leader of the Opposition, would be invited to form a cabinet. This would be followed by another appeal to the people with enhanced prospects of a Unionist success. The result of today's elections in constituencies which are scattered throughout the United Kingdom, should furnish a fair index of the feeling of the country.

## THE HOME AND THE SCHOOL.

School authorities in Washington, D. C., are seeking to bring about co-operation between home and school. The first step toward that end is in the form of an invitation to parents to visit the city schools in which they are individually interested several times during the school terms; not formally or on specific days designated for that purpose, but as they may find time and inclination, so that they may know something of the actual, every-day routine of school work. Upon such visits, made in such manner, there can be no special programme arranged nor any showing of the children, above that which is customary in the daily conduct of the schools. The value of this movement, the Vancouver World points out, will depend, as a matter of course, upon the general acceptance of the invitations, and upon the interest which parents will take as a result thereof. There is no doubt, however, that in its intent, the movement is wise enough, and that, to say the least, it will be productive of some good both to pupils and teachers.

It is rather a curious fact that, taking city schools throughout the country, there is not probably more than a fraction of one per cent. of the parents whose children attend them who know anything from personal observation of the way they are conducted. In the country districts and in the smaller towns there is a more intimate acquaintance between the home and the school; although it may be questioned whether, even there, it is so intimate as it was at one time. The school touches the home, and the responsibilities that the home is charged with, more intimately and more generally than any other activity which we consider as performing a public function. The character which it is the duty of the home to build is influenced by the training of the school, and on the other hand, that which the school would impart is taught with greater or less facility according as there is home interest in the process. There is every logical call for co-operation between the two.

The more observant and intelligent teachers are always able to pick out the pupils whose parents take a real, live interest in their school work and their school problems; who are sympathetic as to their school joys and sorrows. The mark of distinction which enables the good teacher to tell who those pupils are is the fact of the greater progress they make in their school life. In other words, it is simply the fact that union, as between home and school, although it is imperfect, produces beneficial results that are self-evident. If there could be cultivation of more general interest by a system of parental visiting, such as that proposed at Washington, it would be a most simple means of effecting a much-desired advance in the culture of the child. And that, after all, is the chief end for which parents and teachers strive.

## Current Comment

(Detroit Free Press.)

Hanging up in front of one of the downtown shops yesterday morning we saw two deer, evidently the trophies of the trusty rifle of the proprietor. One was a fallow deer and a fine specimen, but the other was a fawn, no bigger than a goat. We may be over-sensitive, but even if we did shoot such a little, inoffensive thing by accident, we'd never bring it home to brag about it. It strikes us that there must be just as much sport in killing a deer of that age and size as there would be in beating a baby with a club.

(Toronto News.)

"Reciprocity within the Empire rather than with foreign countries is today the aspiration of the Canadian people. It is my profound conviction that its early accomplishment is not only desirable but is even essential to the future solidity and welfare of the Empire."

This is Mr. R. L. Borden's message to the British people and it accurately sums up Canadian public opinion.

(Pittsburgh Dispatch.)

A South Carolina surgeon has at last discovered a use for the appendix. He finds it makes "an excellent tube for the irrigation of the intestines with antiseptic solutions" in the treatment and cure of pellagra. It will be kept disappointed to the appendixless if on "catching" pellagra they are told there is no hope because their appendix is gone.

(Vancouver Province.)

Edison is hopeful of perfecting a device which, if successful, will in the opinion of many married men be considered the crowning achievement of his life. It consists of an automatic arrangement that will fasten the back row of buttons on a woman's dress without assistance.

## HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK

Continued from page 3.

Raymond, Andrew Malcolm, Homer Forbes, Charles McDonald, Douglas Hogg, Andrew Jack, Colin Mackay, Mr. Roy, Dr. Malcolm, Mr. Heaps, Dr. Sancton, Mr. Gibson, Dr. Addy, Col. Humphrey, Dr. Merrill, Mr. Teed, Dr. Keith and Mr. McLeod.

Mrs. H. A. Powell, Orange street, entertained at the tea hour on Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Powell received her guests in a blue poplin dress with touches of black silk on the bodice, the yoke and sleeves were of point d'esprit. The mantels were decorated with wreaths of southern smilax, and vases of pale pink carnations. The tea table was decorated with yellow chrysanthemums, and yellow shaded lights. Mrs. L. R. Harrison made the tea and coffee and Mrs. Teed halp the ice cream. The waitresses were Miss Powell in brown velvet dress; Miss Laura Hazen in pale blue eolienne; grebe hat; Miss Winnifred Barber, white mull dress and large black hat and Miss May Harrison in a white crepe de chene dress, white hat, with apricot satin bow. Among the guests were Mrs. Tipples, Mrs. Wm. Hazen, Mrs. Stetson, Mrs. George F. Smith, Mrs. Winslow (Woodstock), Mrs. W. O. Raymond, Mrs. James Jack, Mrs. E. L. Jarvis, Mrs. Murray MacLaren, Mrs. H. R. McLean, Mrs. Keator, Mrs. Sison, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Outram, Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Matthew, Miss McLean and Miss Daisy Outram. Senator Dornville left for Ottawa on the Montreal Express Thursday evening.

St. Frederick Bowen passed through the city this week on his way to Ottawa.

Miss Lou Parks, who has been in Montreal, returned home on Tuesday. Miss Jessie Likely, Garden street, entertained at a girls' tea yesterday afternoon.

In Keith's Assembly rooms last Saturday evening, Mrs. E. A. Smith gave a very inspiring lecture on Canada from Ocean to Ocean. There were over 250 present. The address of Mrs. Smith marked the first of a series of lectures to be given during the winter months. Mrs. Smith's fame as a lecturer is so well known that no space need be taken up in describing the lecture. Miles E. Agar the president of the Men's Canadian Club, in moving a vote of thanks to Mrs. Smith, said her high tribute for the address which she had so ably delivered. The motion was seconded by Mr. C. B. Allan, and put by Magistrate Ritchie and enthusiastically carried. After the lecture a very pleasant and informal reception took place. The reception was in charge of Mrs. H. A. McKeown, Mrs. Theodore Estabrooks, Mrs. A. R. McLeod and Mrs. C. B. Allan, assisted by a number of young ladies. Mr. S. McGowan sang O Canada during the evening. It was announced that during the month of December Rev. A. Cody would give his lecture on Alaska and the Yukon.

Mr. A. D. Short of Halifax was in the city this week. Mrs. R. W. Hannington of Vancouver entered a number of her friends on November 22nd at a tea in honor of her sister, Miss Beatrice Skinner, of St. John, who is at present staying with her.

Mrs. McNaughton of McGill university, who will lecture before the Canadian Club on Wednesday, December 14th, will take as his subject the experiences of the Governor General and his party on their recent trip through Hudson Bay. Mr. McNaughton was a member of the party.

Mrs. D. J. Brown, of St. John, is in Montreal.

The annual sale of the Rotheray Ladies' Sewing Society was held on Thursday afternoon and evening at St. Paul's school house, Rotheray. The doors opened at six p. m. and at six o'clock a turkey supper was served. The Rotheray ladies are famous caterers and those who partook of their hospitality continued to dwell. The fancy work, candy and apron sales were all well patronized. Among those who went out from the city were Mr. and Mrs. Morris Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. McLeod, Mr. McNaughton, Kay, Mrs. Will Allison, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. McAvity, Mrs. E. T. Sturdee, Mrs. MacKenzie, Miss MacKenzie and Master Neville MacKenzie. Miss Emily and Kathleen Sturdee, Miss Connel McGivern, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Tilley, Mr. Mac MacKay, Miss Claire Hamilton and Mr. Harold Cruikshank. A very enjoyable social function took place on Wednesday afternoon and evening at the home of Mrs. W. A. Henderson, King street East. About 250 guests were present. During the afternoon tea was served and in the evening there was bridge and dancing. Mrs. Fred. E. Hannington and Mrs. Merrill presided at the tea tables. Miss W. A. Henderson cut the ice cream and Mrs. Fred Nelson and Mrs. Morrison had charge of the dining room. Those who waited were Miss Bertha Fales, Miss Winnie Fairweather, Miss Lillian Anderson, Miss Nora Stewart, Miss Roberta Wisely and Miss Alice Smith. Mrs. Robert Jarvis and Mrs. Ernest Smith ushered. It was a very delightful affair.

A very pretty wedding took place on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. S. D. Lewis, Horsfield street, when her sister, Miss Mildred Isaacs, was united in marriage to Mr. I. M. Rubinovich of Montreal. Mrs. S. D. Lewis was the matron of honor and Mr. Sydney Isaacs was the groomsmen. Mr. and Mrs. Rubinovich will reside in Montreal.

Premier to Mr. Aitken. A London despatch to the Montreal Star says: Hon. J. D. Hazen has sent W. M. Aitken a warm message, wishing him as distinguished a British political career as New Brunswick's great son, Bonar Law.

Faith in St. John. The Fenton Land and Building Company has purchased from the Thomas R. Jones estate the large block of land on Seely street near the gardens, formerly used as a tennis courts. This is one of the largest vacant lots in the city, and its purchase is another evidence of the faith the company has in the development of St. John.

Liquor Violation Case. The case against the Royal Hotel, charged with having two doors to their bar, was taken up before Magistrate Ritchie yesterday afternoon. A. Wilson, K.C., appeared for Rev. W. R. Robinson, who laid the complaint. J. A. Sinclair for the commission, and W. A. Ewing for the Royal Hotel. Inspector Jones was the first witness. He stated that on the occasion of his last visit to the hotel on Nov. 15, there were two doors to the bar. A similar charge against the Dufferin Hotel will be heard on Monday, and that against the Park Hotel on Tuesday.

## Diamond Rings

In the selection of a diamond, size is only one of many considerations. When you buy a diamond you should consider, first its color and freedom from flaws, then its shape and style of cutting lastly its size. The diamonds we show you are selected in this way. Many of the stones were bought when prices were much lower than now, but our prices save in one or two instances, are the same as originally. We believe you can save money in buying a diamond ring from us and ask you to come and see our proofs. We have special values at the prices most people want to pay... \$25 to \$100.

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G. E. F.  
Halifax, N. S., Nov.