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FRIDAY, APRIL 19.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

Mr. Asquith, British chancellor of the exchequer, presented his second budget statement yesterday, but it was the first for which he assumed full responsibility, the other having been the legacy of the preceding government.

Mr. Asquith's duty was not an ungrateful one. The trade of the country is flourishing and the revenue is buoyant. The surplus for the year was \$26,955,000, which will be applied toward reduction of debt. The surplus and the money applied to the sinking fund make a total reduction in the debt of \$68,570,000 for the fiscal year, which is a very satisfactory showing. The estimated expenditure for the ensuing year shows a decrease of \$3,320,000, and the chancellor expressed the opinion that the reduction would be continuous, in fulfillment of the Liberal party's pledges of retrenchment and economy.

The budget statement was not a radical or original one, as the Government has not had time to freely develop its programme of social legislation, but the chancellor foreshadowed important changes. There will be a discrimination in the income tax so that earned incomes under \$10,000 a year will hereafter pay only 18 cents in the pound, while unearned incomes will pay the present rate of 24 cents in the pound. Another change will be the graduation of the succession duties. The tax will be progressive, increasing with the value of the estate. The most momentous reform, however, will be the introduction of old age pensions. The Government is definitely committed to this far-reaching step. Mr. Asquith said a scheme had not been framed, but he promised that a firm foundation would be laid before the close of the next session of Parliament. The sum of \$7,500,000 of the estimated surplus for the ensuing year will be earmarked for the purpose.

Mr. Asquith will have plenty of scope for his constructive abilities when he undertakes to finance an old age pension system. Australia and New Zealand furnish the only examples of this legislation, but they are small countries. There are two million people in Great Britain over 65 years of age, and if they are to be wards of the state, the state must find a tremendous sum of money.

THE LAW AND LIBEL.

Henry Labouchere, the stormy petrel of English journalism, and, as editor of London Truth, the hero of many a libel suit, in nearly every one of which he has triumphed, has just added another to his list of victories. In this case the plaintiff was a French physician, Dr. Dakhyt, connected with an institution for the cure of deafness, whom defendant's journal had characterized as "a quack of the rankest species." The trial, before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Alverstone, and a jury, resulted in a verdict for plaintiff of £1,000. The court of appeal set the verdict aside on the ground of errors contained in the lord chief justice's charge, and ordered a new trial. At this point appeal was had by plaintiff to the House of Lords, which court dismissed the appeal, the law lords agreeing that in his instructions to the jury the lord chief justice had erred.

The plea of the defense was, first, that the article was true, and secondly, that it was a fair comment on a matter of public interest, uttered without malice and therefore protected in law. Lord Alverstone, however, instructed the jury that the term "quack" meant a pretender to skill which he did not possess. The defense insisted that one who lent himself to a medical imposture, however great his skill, might properly be termed a quack, and maintained that such was the case against the plaintiff. But Lord Alverstone not only ruled out this contention, but refused to permit the jury to pass upon the sense in which defendant used the word "quack" as applied to defendant.

The stand taken by the House of Lords is that the language complained of was reasonably susceptible of the construction which defendant sought to have put upon it, and, further, that the jury should have been permitted to say whether or not that meaning was the one the alleged libel conveyed to the ordinary readers' mind. Lord Alverstone was also found to have erred in his rulings as to the defense of fair comments. He had ignored that plea and told the jury that there must be a verdict against defendant unless he established the truth of what he wrote about the plaintiff. In advising the House of Lords to dismiss the plaintiff's appeal the lord chancellor declared that, where the plea of

justification is made good, the plea of fair comment does not arise, nor can it arise unless there is an imputation against the plaintiff. "It is precisely where the criticism would otherwise be actionable as a libel," remarked the lord chancellor, "that the defense of fair comment comes in." Therefore, Lord Alverstone should have instructed the jury to consider, in the first place, whether the publication complained of was meant to be understood and was understood in the sense attributed to it by defendant, and, secondly, whether, if such was its true sense it did not constitute a fair comment on a matter of public interest.

Lord Alverstone, whose law has thus been found at fault by the highest court in the realm, will be remembered by Canadians as the British arbitrator who gave Canada the worst of it in the Alaska boundary award, and there will, no doubt, be those who may feel it is a pity the Dominion had not the right to appeal to the law lords in that instance.

THE NEWCOMERS.

The report of the Department of the Interior for the last fiscal year records a total of 41,969 homestead entries in the Canadian west during the twelve months, representing 105,420 souls. The entrants were classified by nationalities as follows:

	No. of Entries.
Canadians from Ontario	7,354
Quebec	792
Nova Scotia	345
New Brunswick	245
Prince Edward Island	167
Manitoba	1,531
Saskatchewan	393
Alberta	393
British Columbia	122
Persons who had previous entry	2,551
Newfoundlanders	17
Canadians returned from U. S.	703
Americans	12,435
English	5,897
Scotch	1,657
Irish	543
French	317
Belgians	317
Swiss	56
Italians	14
Rumanians	65
Syrians	29
Germans	1,024
Austro-Hungarians	2,193
Hollanders	109
Danes (other than Icelanders)	75
Swedes	539
Russians (other than Mennonites or Doukhobors)	534
Mennonites	143
Doukhobors	7
Persians	1
Australians	14
New Zealanders	12
Canadians from Yukon	6
Turks	2
South African	2
Trinidad	1
Jamaica	1
Peru	1
Total	41,969

These figures will help to explain why rural Ontario is growing so slowly. This province is still giving her sons and daughters in thousands yearly to the west. Next to the Americans, Ontario people last year made the greatest number of homestead entries. These homesteaders, or settlers on free government lands, were principally Ontario farmers and their sons.

The Canadian prairie country is getting a very mixed population, but the overwhelming proportion of the newcomers is English-speaking, a contrast to the immigration of the United States, which is chiefly from the south of Europe.

Great Britain has a surplus of \$25,000,000 for twelve months. Canada has a surplus of \$23,000,000 for nine months. Not so bad for the youngsters!

In the security of the Senate, Hon. G. W. Ross is not forgetting his early political training. He has been making a capital speech for provincial rights.

It is said that the P. P. A. in blue goggles and false whiskers is to be received in Toronto. The apparition was last seen in the London by-election.

A cable dispatch says that Lord and Lady Aberdeen are too economical to be popular at Dublin Castle. This will surprise Canadians, for the Aberdeens were lavish spenders while in this country, and entertained on a scale not approached at Rideau Hall before or since.

The city council has reconsidered its decision to befriend the street watering contractors at the public expense a second time. The day labor plan is not always the best one for every class of municipal work, but in the present case it may prove to be decidedly cheaper. At any rate it is worth looking into.

WHERE CHARITY FAILED.

[New York Tribune.]
J. G. Phelps Stokes, the philanthropist, spoke with good-humored regret at a dinner in New York of a charity that had failed.

"But it failed through its own fault," said Mr. Stokes. "It failed because it was mistaken. It suggests to me an experience of a friend of mine in Ireland.

"My friend, about this season last year, was motoring through a remote region of Ireland, and one day he came upon a poor

old woman seated, with all her humble furniture about her, in the middle of the road before her little cabin.

"My friend was profoundly moved. Here before his very eyes a widow—a Irish widow—was taking place. He got out of his car and gave the old woman a £5 note.

"Tell me," he said, "what is the trouble, my poor friend?"

"Bobbing and courtesying her gratitude," the old woman replied.

"Shure, sir, meould man's white-washin'."

WILL NOT SHOW.

[Exchange.]
"Jane, I can hardly believe my eyes. You are making the bread without washing your hands."

"Well, ma'am, what's the difference? It's only brown bread."

PEPPER FOR RATS.

[Kansas City Journal.]
Jephthah Coleman, of Atchison, gets rid of mice and rats by wrapping cayenne pepper in a cloth and stuffing it into the holes where the animals pass in and out. They gnaw at the rag, and the first thing they know they have a dose of the pepper that makes them wish they had not been so industrious. Mr. Coleman does not know whether they sneeze themselves to pieces or simply hike to the neighbors. Anyhow, they disappear.

SHE'D NOTICED IT.

[Exchange.]
"Look here," said the husband, "you mustn't complain that way. Remember, at least, that I have to foot the bills."

"Yes, you foot them," retorted the wife. "You kick at every single one of them."

TOWN AND COUNTRY.

[Town and Country.]
Miss Withers—You are blushing, Coral! What was that clumsy partner of yours saying?"

Miss Kneisel—Oh, nothing; only that before he met me, life seemed to desert to him.

Miss Withers—That is no reason why he should walk like a dromedary, is it?

ON THE SAFE SIDE.

[Independence (Kan.) Star.]
The editor found it necessary to warn a careless reporter to write nothing unless he positively knew it to be correct. Later in the day the reporter handed in a society item as follows: "It is rumored that Mrs. Smith, who claims to reside on South Chestnut street, gave a so-called dinner party to a number of her alleged friends. Mrs. Smith asserts that they all had a good time. In the progressive euchre feature which followed the dinner, Mrs. Brown, who claims to be the wife of Postmaster Brown, was successful."

THE SHORTEST MONTH.

[Louisville Courier-Journal.]
"John, I'm going to have mother visit us next month."

"Why didn't you have her in February?" Then the trouble started.

UNSEASONABLE.

[Washington Star.]
"It's hard to sing a springtime song when pleasures are so few;
The coal may linger in the grate too long;
The ice man's overdue."

THE WAY TO SAFETY.

[Puck.]
Gabe Goshall (on the southeast corner of the drygoods box)—It must be terrible to be ketchered out in a brainstorm.

Hi Hemlock (on the southwest corner of the drygoods box)—W'y, all a feller'd hev t' do 'ud be t' h'ist one o' them paranoias, an' he'd never know 'twas r'ainin'.

ALL ABOUT SPRING.

[John Kendrick Bangs.]
The croak of the crocus is heard in the land.
The bulbs are beginning to bubble;
The robin is robbin' on every hand,
The sparrow is sparring for trouble.

Pieunzy is sneezing and nosing around.
The worm from his warm bed is worm-
ing;
The rills are all trilling with musical sound,
While seaward they're merrily squirm-
ing.

The blossoms are making a bluff on the trees,
The cowbells are plaintively ring-
ing—
By which and the soft soapy feel of my knees,
I know that the spring is a-spring-
ing.

OH-LEIGH-OH!

[Houston Post.]
"No," said his wife, "I will not need a bonnet, not this spring.
Nor a new dress, nor any gloves.
In fact, not anything;
And I won't care to go away
And leave the city smoke
And dust and grime—then someone
And knocked,
And the man awoke."

AN EMPLOYER OF LABOR.

[Tit-Bits.]
Weary Willie—There was a time, friend, when I had mor'n a thousand men work-
ing for me."

Tired Tim—You don't look like a man that ever had control of a thousand laborers.

Weary Willie—I didn't say they were laborers. They were taxpayers. I was in the workhouse.

ONE PRAISEWORTHY ACT.

[Pick-Me-Up.]
He—The world rarely praises a man until after he dies.
She—Because that's about all the world can find to praise most men for.

NOT ENOUGH TO GO ROUND.

[Puck.]
A good bit of love goes to waste before marriage that would help a lot afterward.

LIFE'S MONOTONE.

[New York Sun.]
Life is no monotone to him
Who lives;
Who waits not to receive
But gives;
Who thinks, who acts
That he may make
Some portion of the world
To take;
To work, not for oneself
Alone,
Is something more
Than monotone.

STRONG REASONS.

[Exchange.]
An elderly woman, on being examined before the magistrate of Bunbury as to her reason of legal settlement, was asked what reasons she had for supposing that her deceased husband's settlement was at St. Andrews.

"The old lady looked earnestly at the bench, and said:
"He was born there, he was married there, and they buried him there; and if

that isn't settling him there, I'd like to know what is!"

DEFINED.

[New York Sun.]
Knicker—What is a lawyer?
Bocker—The umbrella for a brainstorm.

HIS HEART.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
"Mr. Wappleson," said Mrs. Oldcastle, "has a heart of gold."

"Dear me," replied her hostess, "is that so? I knew he'd got hurt in the army so he had to have a silver plate in his jaw, but I'd never heard about the other."

CONSOLATION FOR HOUSE-KEEPERS.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
Margaret Anglin says there may be poetry in the act of sweeping a room. Of course, and think of the rhythm there may be in rubbing a pair of socks on a wash-board.

CARTER'S

LITTLE

LIVER

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But we can hear a faultless reproduction of their various musical "hits" right in our own home.

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By just taking a

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home with us.

The most famous artists in the musical world sing, recite and play instrumental music for reproduction on the "Victor."

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Musical Comedy
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Famous Old Songs
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Sacred Music

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Military Hip Corsets \$1.00
Excelsa Corsets a Pair
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E. T. 462 Corsets
Contour
Antoinette Corsets
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Boys' Heavy Ribbed Black Cotton Stockings, fast dye. All sizes from 6 to 10. At, per pair, 25c
Ladies' Lace Ankle Cotton Hose, black and white, at, per pair 25c
Ladies' Embroidered Cotton Hose, black, Hermsdorf dye, at, per pair 40c
Ladies' Fine Plain Cotton Hose, in pink, blue, hello, gray and black. At, a pair 25c

LONG KID GLOVES

Mousquetaire Dressed Kid Gloves, in brown, tan, gray, beaver, white and black; three-quarter length. At, a pair \$1.50
Rouillon Dressed Kid Gloves, 12-button length, fitted and guaranteed; in black, white, cream, tan and gray. At, a pair \$2.75
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WM. GIBSON, Mgr.

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SOVEREIGN BRAND garments show their style because they hold their shape until worn out.

SOVEREIGN BRAND garments hold their shape because they are made from fabrics that do not shrink.

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"THE HOME OF GOOD CLOTHING."

The Misses Ethel and Mollie Stevens, 17 and 19 years old, respectively, carry mail on a rural route in Linton, Ind., which is 25 miles long. They are sometimes obliged to walk on account of the condition of the roads.

Mary Faber of Milwaukee, when arraigned on a charge of shoplifting, said she had no home, as her husband had deserted her. She sorted her stolen articles in a church where she slept.

There is a birth in New York City each five minutes in the day and a death each seven minutes.

