

BRITAIN'S ELECTION IN FULL SWING.

Lords Depending on Silent Vote---Editor of Quarterly Review Talks.

New York, Dec. 26.—Dr. George W. Prothero, editor of the Quarterly Review of London, former professor of history at Edinburgh University, and one of the leading authorities in English constitutional history, arrived today on the Laugentia to attend the celebration this week of the American Historical Association. Speaking to-night of the present political crisis in Britain has passed since the reform bill. The Budget seems to be the thin end of Socialism, and if it is adopted the effect, not only in England, but on the continent, will be most serious. Lloyd George, in his Limehouse speech, delivered at the end of October, and in New castle last month, has made no bones about admitting that his aim is the nationalization of all land.

"It is this, quit as much as the increased taxes, that has aroused the opposition of the richer classes. Of course, they do not want the heavy taxation, but they fear still more what is to come if the Budget becomes law. "Take the question of taxation of undeveloped lands for example. There is really very little land in England that has not been developed as far as is possible. You may see a waste lot near a town, but it stands waste not because the owner will not improve it, but because he cannot. You must remember that our owns are not like yours, they do not develop very fast, and a piece of property may stand idle simply because the owner finds it impossible to dispose of it at anything like its value."

Referring to the proposal to tax the unearned increment on land, Dr. Prothero said that the answer to the objection that it was unfair to tax the unearned increment on land and not on other investments was that a beginning must be made somewhere. However, he pointed out that, as a matter of fact, landlords are often not the recipient of these unearned increments for years.

Dr. Prothero's belief is that the Liberals will be returned next month with a considerable majority. An attempt to curtail the veto power of the House of Lords he regards as inevitable.

After the conclusion of the historical meeting, Dr. Prothero will give two or three lectures at Columbia, the subjects of which are not yet fixed.

THE SILENT VOTE.
London, Dec. 26.—The Christmas lull in the political campaign is welcome to everybody. The battle will be renewed Tuesday. The peers must leave the arena on Jan. 8, a day when they are not allowed by the constitution of Great Britain to participate in electioneering work so far as addressing meetings is concerned, but between Tuesday and that date the peers are booked for hard work. 35 of them addressing 113 public meetings in all parts of the country within that period. This unprecedented flood of lordly eloquence does not seem to have had any great effect.

Curzon and Milner have probably done their cause good service, but in reviewing the first of the campaign a Unionist paper is obliged to confess that "with the best cause in the world the Unionists are lamentably lacking in men who appeal to the imagination, and more especially the sensational interest of the electorate." It adds that voters require to be interested as well as instructed, and it is afraid that they for the most part are more deeply impressed by the "purple patches" of Mr. Lloyd George and the daring inexactitudes of Mr. Winston Churchill than in the cultivated, thoughtful arguments of Lord Curzon and Walter Long.

This is undoubtedly true, and the Unionists are now relying chiefly on that mysterious factor known as the silent voter. Certainly the noisy ones who attend their meetings give them little encouragement.

Apart from the budget and the House of Lords, New York and Berlin have, perhaps, been the most prominent features in the political fight during the past ten days. One wonders what kind of idea the unsophisticated, untravelled Britisher has of Christmas conditions in these two great cities. One set of newspapers refer pityingly to New York's bread lines and the enormous cost of every kind of provision there. Then, turning to Berlin, these papers draw a harrowing picture of German workmen living on sour, black bread, horse sausages and dogs' flesh, while unemployment is rife throughout the fatherland. The other papers declare that America celebrates Christmas joyfully. Prices are high, but money is abundant. Unemployment is rare, while Berlin is described as a paradise for workmen.

FOOD TAXATION.
London, Dec. 17.—(Globe Letter.)—Mr. Chiozza Money, the well-known political economist and parliamentarian, continues his attacks on the tariff reform programme. He holds that, instead of cementing the empire, the tariff reformers are more likely to break it into pieces. As most of the daily papers in London are in the hands of the protectionists, and the news channels are largely controlled by them, the people of Canada and the United States get a good deal more than their fair share of tariff reform doctrine.

In view of this it is perhaps advisable to state the other side briefly as presented by Mr. Money. It is within the memory of all who take interest in public affairs, that when Mr. Chamberlain started his fight for what he called tariff reform, six years ago, he put forward as the very centre of his project, the arrangement of the tariff so that the colonies should have a substantial preference over foreigners in the markets of the motherland. At that time the bulk of the Conservative party was opposed to the taxation of food-stuffs, and Mr. Chamberlain, in deference to the free food element, took the ground that if colonial grain were admitted duty free, and foreign grain taxed there would be no material increase in the price of bread.

The colonies, Canada especially, having an advantage over foreign growers, would speedily be able to occupy the entire market and supplies of taxed wheat would not be necessary.

Mr. Chamberlain's speeches roused

the protectionist feeling that has never been entirely destroyed in agricultural England, and the suggestion of free grain from the colonies and a tax against the foreigner fell somewhat flat. Tariff reform was intended to be a means of raising revenue as well as a measure of protection, and as the discussion proceeded it became evident that if Mr. Chamberlain's prophecy proved true and free colonial grains occupied the market to the exclusion of foreign grains, there would be neither protection for the British grain-grower nor revenue for the public treasury.

Mr. Chamberlain's tariff reform commission, a body that for some time conducted an inquiry into the condition of British industry, thereupon came to the conclusion that if foreign grain were to be excluded from the British Isles under the new tariff, colonial grain should provide some of the country's revenue, and the British grain grower should get the incidental protection afforded by the duties on colonial grain, which now comes in duty free, should pay a tax of one shilling a quarter and foreign grain should pay two shillings a quarter.

One of two things must follow. If, as the protectionists assert, the "saler" or "foreigner," pays the duty, then Canadian growers of wheat will get three cents less per bushel for their wheat in Britain than they would were it untaxed. If the consumer pays the duty, then the cost of bread to the British workman must be increased, not merely by the amount of the duty levied on colonial and foreign grain, but by the corresponding and inevitable increase in the cost of the grain grown in Britain.

This argument applies not merely to Canadian and Australian wheat, but it applies also to our cheese, our butter, our bacon and our apples, upon all of which it is proposed to place "nominal" duties, heavier rates being levied on similar imports from beyond the Empire's borders.

A FALSE CRY.
Manchester, Dec. 24.—I find that in Lancashire the feeling is quite general that the colonies are urging the taxation of food. The tariff reform cry is "Stand by the colonies, and hold the Empire together."

This does not make for the popularity of our products in the North of England, which is utterly opposed to food taxes, and not disposed to hold the Empire together in that particular way.

The free traders of Manchester take the ground that it is slander to say that the loyalty of Canada to the Empire depends upon the taxation of colonial foodstuffs at a lighter rate than foreign goods, or on any fiscal conditions whatever.

CARS DITCHED.

Winnipeg-Toronto Express Wrecked Near Chapleau.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—An official statement of wreck given out by the C. P. R. officials at Montreal was forwarded to Superintendent Osborne here last night. It was as follows: Part of the Toronto-Winnipeg Express which left Winnipeg Wednesday night was derailed thirty-seven miles west of Chapleau. Several coaches left the rails; two were turned over and about twenty passengers were hurt. The most seriously injured are: Theodore Moquin, Amsterdam, N. Y., back hurt.

D. A. McLean, Moosomin, Sask., internal injuries.

Mrs. Hugh McMahon, Newdale, Man., back and side hurt.

Mrs. S. Dickson, Winnipeg, body injured.

Mr. Joseph Gilmour and Miss M. Gilmour, 93 Beaden street, Toronto, Mr. Gilmour is seventy years old, and is suffering from an injured shoulder. His daughter is not badly injured.

Other passengers were cut by flying glass and bruised from the swaying and jolting of the cars in going down the embankment. Their injuries are trivial, those named being the most serious, and they will be able to continue the journey to Toronto. Physicians do not anticipate any serious results to any of the injured.

"Everything so far indicates that the accident was due to a broken rail, as the engine passed over safely."

EXPELS COOK.

Explorers' Club Decides He Did Not Ascend Mt. McKinley.

New York, Dec. 24.—The Board of Governors of the Explorers' Club met today in executive session, and, standing in silence, voted with bowed heads that Dr. Frederick A. Cook be dropped from the rolls of the club for fraud practised on its members and on the public.

Preliminary to its vote of expulsion the board met to pass upon the report of its committee, which has been investigating the validity of Dr. Cook's assertion that he reached the summit of Mount McKinley. This committee in concluding an exhaustive report recommended that "Dr. Cook's claim that he ascended the summit of Mount McKinley in 1906 be rejected by the Explorers' Club as unworthy of credence."

The committee's recommendation was based on its findings that "Dr. Cook had repeatedly made statements that have not been in accord with the facts, and that he had entered into agreements which he had failed to keep, and the misstatements and broken agreements dealt not only with matters pertaining to discovery, but to ordinary financial transactions, so that no credence can be given to statements made by him."

Useful Gifts For Men.

Razor strops and shaving brushes are very suitable for Christmas presents. Probably the finest stock in Ontario of these lines is kept at Gerrie's drug store, 32 James street north. Beautiful razor strops, varying in price from 25c to \$2.50 each, and shaving brushes from 15c to \$3 each are shown. Do not buy without seeing this stock.



YES, THEN THERE WAS THE NIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS.

BLOWN UP.

Two Men Hurt and Damage Done by Gas Explosion.

What Happened After a Match Had Been Struck.

Galt, Dec. 26.—Charles Freure, Beverly street, and his brother-in-law, Charles Hillock, of Guilford, are lying in the General Hospital here suffering from burns received in an explosion of natural gas in the home of the former late on Christmas night.

But while both men are suffering considerably their condition is not regarded as critical.

The two men had gone down to the cellar of the house to get a scuttle of coal. Hillock was carrying a light. When they descended the light flickered and then went out. A match was struck, and the explosion followed immediately. The southern wall of the building, a roughcast structure, was blown entirely out, doubling up like a jackknife, with out a window being broken. The other wall bulged, but did not give way, but every window in the cellar was broken.

Mrs. Freure and her two children were sitting in the kitchen at the time. The linoleum covering the floor heaved up suddenly. It covered the children completely and partially protected Mrs. Freure, and all escaped injury. The blowout was followed by a little fire, which was extinguished by the local brigade before any damage had been done. The total loss will amount to about five hundred dollars, and is covered by insurance.

A WINDFALL.

British Treasury Reaps Great Duty From Large Estate.

Estate of Charles Morrison Pays to Government \$15,000,000.

New York, Dec. 26.—A cable despatch to The Sun from London says:—The treasury reaps a fine Christmas gift from an estate which has already this year provided the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a fine windfall. Ellen Morrison, who died on Thursday, was the third member of a family of four millionaires who have died within the last seven months. Charles Morrison, dying seven months ago practically an unknown man, left an estate estimated in value at \$60,000,000. There was paid immediately on account of death duties on his estate the sum of \$5,500,000. The succession duties brought the total contribution to the treasury up to \$7,500,000, and there is a further vast sum of death duties to come, the first payment being simply on account.

The value of Charles Morrison's bequests to his sister Ellen, who died Thursday, was some \$10,000,000. The death duties on this, amounting to \$1,500,000, must now be paid again, while other charges on the remaining \$8,500,000 will bring the total up to \$2,825,000. Only a few days ago Mr. Morrison's sister-in-law died. Her contribution to the State was on some millions of pounds sterling Charles had left her.

So that one estate within seven months will have paid in death, succession and estate duties nearly \$15,000,000 to the State. There yet remains alive a fourth member of the millionaire quartette, Walter Morrison, who inherited a couple of million pounds sterling from Charles. He now inherits from Ellen both the money and the estates she inherited from Charles, and as Walter was born in 1836 Charles' fortune may be expected ere many years pass to still further benefit the revenue.

THE OLDEST MAN LIVING.

His wife called for assistance, but found her hubby was nearly 80 years old. Far better not to risk blood poisoning—use Putnam's.

Six coaches of Christmas travellers on the Canadian Pacific's Chicago-Toronto train were stalled in the Detroit River for several hours Saturday, when the company's car ferry Michigan was caught in the ice. The ferry was stalled at 9.30 a. m., and tugs worked until after noon to free it.

A GREAT WAVE.

Driven on New England Coast by Gale.

Boston, Dec. 26.—Grim winter swept into New England to-day on the wings of a northeast storm with such terrible energy as to cause great damage, much inconvenience, not a little suffering, and a few deaths.

The gale drove a tide into Massachusetts Bay which nearly equalled that of the famous storm of 1851. Coming on a full moon the gale rolled a wave along the coast which in some places reached a height of over fourteen feet above low water mark. In this city the tide went across Atlantic avenue on the waterfront, filling hundreds of cellars, and causing an estimated damage of over \$100,000. In Everett Cornelius Harkin and his wife were caught in their beds and overwhelmed by the flood, while an infant lost its life in Chelsea under similar circumstances.

WINTER IN NEW YORK.

New York, Dec. 26.—New York and its environs were practically storm-bound to-day for the first time this winter. The west wing of the railway service was almost wholly cut off, wire communication in every direction was crippled, the city's streets were blocked with snow, and shipping, even within the harbor, suffered considerable damage.

The snowfall which began shortly before noon yesterday continued steadily nearly all night, with intermittent flurries throughout the greater part of the day. This was followed by a cold wave, which froze the damp snow to wires, switches and roadways. Nearly ten inches of snow fell in the city, and the poor who ate the fall of free Christmas dinners yesterday had an opportunity to work up their appetite to-day by shovelling. More than 10,000 shovellers and 6,000 trucks were put to work.

Telephone and telegraph lines throughout the east were burdened with coatings of ice and many wires fell. Three deaths in the city were charged to-day to the severity of the storm. The victims were men who had spent the night vainly seeking shelter and food, finally succumbing to exposure. Joseph Hart, 65 years old, died in a pew at a Catholic Church to-day, probably of exhaustion after wandering in the cold.

A TELL TALE.

Falls Man Shot Salt Shaker Off Man's Head.

Niagara Falls, Ont., Dec. 24.—William Tell may be dead, but his spirit still lives and in the person of Ernest Baybrook, an electrical worker of this city. He accomplished at least an act far more startling than Tell's at the Hotel Arlington in Bridge street this afternoon, but it cost him \$5 in the Police Court soon after.

Baybrook and a companion started out rabbit hunting, and stopped in the Arlington for a few drinks. His friend was boasting of the prowess of the electrician with the gun and grabbed a salt shaker from the bar, placed it upon his own head and invited the nimrod to shoot it off.

"Father, will you shoot this apple off my head?" pleaded the hunter of his friend Baybrook.

"Sure thing," responded Baybrook, and the next instant a report rang out and the splintered glass from the salt shaker fell in every direction. The human target was uninjured and several others had a narrow escape from injury.

Baybrook was fined for firing a gun in a public place.

\$10,000 NORTH POLE DINNER.

London, Dec. 24.—George Kessler tonight gave another wonderful dinner at the Savoy Hotel. It was a less costly affair than his gaudy banquet four years ago, on which he expended \$25,000. Seventeen men and seventeen women tonight had only \$10,000 spent on the entertainment, but they fared pretty comfortably even at this figure. The North Pole was the motif, and a hundred men worked night and day since the order was given for the dinner two days ago to convert the winter garden into a semblance of Arctic waste. Icebergs enclosed the scene, and icicles hung overhead.

GO FOR YOUR LETTERS

OFFICIAL LIST OF THOSE UNCLAIMED IN HAMILTON.

Unclaimed letters lying in the Hamilton post office received previous to December 20th:

Adams, Herbert.
Adams, Mrs. Henry.
Airey, G. W.

Ball, E.
Barr, A. E.
Bayham, Mrs. Eliza.
Beimett, Mrs.
Blowers, Fred, 10 Rebecca street.
Bolton, George.
Bowerman, Mrs. Wesley.
Brenner, Mrs. Wm.
Burns, Pete, Saltfleet Township.
Burns, J. G.
Buckingham, Mr.
Burns, J. H.
Burns, Pat and John, Saltfleet Township.

Bull, Harry, east end mountain top.
Butler, Mrs. A., from Winona.

Campbell, S. E. C.
Chapman, W., 358 John street north.
Clark, Miss B. M.
Clark, W. J.
Clark, Charles.
Cox, Miss Alice.
Coulter, Mrs. F. T., care L. G. Foster.

Danzger, M., 22 King street.
DeGraw, W. J.
Dewey, Mrs. Alex.
Drysdale, Mrs. Alex.

Emery, Mrs. John.
Everett, J. W.

Fowler, Seymour K.
Farrar, Miss H.
Ferguson, Mrs. W.
Franklin, R. J., mountain top.
Fidler, Mrs. M.

Gillies, Miss May, Levenford.
Gibson, A. C., from Centreville.
Gregory, Mrs. W. C.

Hamilton, T. H.
Hamill, Miss M.
Hamill, Miss M.
Harding, J.
Hartley, Harry.
Hackett, R.
Hamilton, W. C.
Harper, J. W.
Herman, C. A.
Hixon, O. D.
Hills, Wm.
Holcomb, D. N., from Chicago.
Horn, A. T., care of A. Patterson, Palermo (2).
Howley, Miss A., from Monroe, Mich.

Jackson, Jos. H. (2).
Jones, Cheers.
Johnson, Mrs. Florence.

Kenney, Jas. M.
King, Mrs. Bertha.
Koznets, Peter.

Le Bar, J. A.

Mark, Mrs.
Malott, Mrs. Matilda.
Mitchell, J.
Morrison, Anne.
Mundy, Mrs. Margaret.

Newcombe, T.
Nugent, A.

O'Connors, Thomas.
Ormonde, Miss Mary.
Owen, Jas. W.

Parson, John S.
Page, W. F.
Palmer, C.
Pasmore, Rich. I.
Pipe, R., Crown Point.
Porter, Robt. C.
Prumpour, B. M.

Rayner, W. J.
Ray, Miss Rose.

Ramsay, J. C.
Read, T.
Reynolds, Harold W.
Reid, Charles, from Ancaster.
Reid, Emma L., from Ancaster.
Ripson, Charles.
Roberts, W., Mt. Top.
Royle, John R., two.
Robb, L. J., from Milverton.
Rundle, J.

Sapan, Louis.
Scutthorp, F. J. A.
Scotton, Robert.
Squire, Miss Sarah, care of W. J. Hammond.
Simmons, Mrs. S. E.
Sinclair, David A.
Smallwood, Tony.
Spaven, Thomas and Geo., from Hagersville.
Stout, Mrs. Nelson.

Taylor, Mrs. W. H., Mt. Top.
Tooley, Sidney.
Traves, Miss M.

Vasey, Mr., hotel waiter.

Warton, Harry.
Winegarden, R. T.
Workman, John.
Woodcroft, Iuez.
Woods, A., Mt. Brow.

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Warton, Harry.

Winegarden, R. T.

Workman, John.

Woodcroft, Iuez.

Woods, A., Mt. Brow.

MacDonald, Jas. A., 35 William st.
McKenzie, W., care of Turner & Co.
McMillan, Isabella.
McPherson, Sam.

Lawyers' Wills.

A remarkable specimen of a lawyer's invalid will was that of Sir Joseph Jekyll, Master of the Rolls, who died in 1788 and bequeathed his fortune after his wife's death to pay off the national debt. "Sir Joseph was a good man and a good lawyer," was Lord Mansfield's comment, "but his bequest was a very foolish one. He might as well have attempted to stop the middle arch of London Bridge with his full bottomed wig." The testator's patriotic intentions were therefore treated as proof of mental weakness, and his will was promptly set aside.

Among the many blundering wills that lawyers have made for their clients, if not for themselves, the strangest on record was that of a Dublin gentleman who left all his money to the elder son of his brother, and if he had no elder son, to the second.—From the London Chronicle.

Col. Von Kotten, chief of the secret police of Moscow, has been appointed to succeed Col. Karpoff, chief of the secret police in St. Petersburg, who was assassinated on Dec. 22.