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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 12.

THE ALBERTA MUDDLE.

The political situation in Alberta is acquiring a strong element of comedy. It is raising also some perplexing questions as to constitutional procedure.

An Edmonton correspondent yesterday wired the names of a new ministry formed by Mr. Cushing. The correspondent was enterprising, but his information was premature, for at this writing it is reported that Premier Rutherford still holds the fort, though all his ministers save two have sent in their resignations.

The question arises, When is a cabinet minister not a cabinet minister? Mr. Rutherford announces that he has accepted no resignations. Are Messrs. Cushing, Cross and Buchanan, who have publicly announced their retirement, technically still members of the cabinet? It is a nice problem for constitutional quidnuncs. One of these retiring ministers, Mr. Cross, the attorney-general, continues to sit on the treasury benches, and yesterday he voted with the Government on a want of confidence motion.

The Premier has been sustained by a vote of 29 to 17. A government has a right to cling to office so long as it can muster a majority of even one in the Legislature, but is there a government de jure or de facto when three out of the six men sworn in as cabinet ministers decline to serve longer, and their places remain unfilled? The Lieutenant-Governor may, without stretching his prerogative, allow his chief adviser a reasonable time in which to try to fill the vacancies, but technically there are no vacancies until the resignations have been accepted. The Lieutenant-Governor may also shield himself behind the fact that the cabinet is a body unknown to the constitution, and that the only person he is required to recognize or defer to is his chief minister. It is an original situation. The young western provinces is teaching us something new about the intricacies of the British constitution.

MR. ASQUITH POINTS THE WAY.

The text of Mr. Asquith's speech on Feb. 28, received by the English mail yesterday, reveals clearly the course mapped out by the Government.

The House of Commons will be occupied exclusively with Government business, chiefly army and navy estimates, until the Easter adjournment on March 24. The House will reassemble on Tuesday, March 29, and the Government will immediately introduce resolutions dealing with the veto of the House of Lords. To quote Mr. Asquith, who is a master of lucidity:

"These resolutions will, I hope and believe, be both few and simple. They will affirm—I am speaking now in general terms—the necessity for excluding the House of Lords altogether from the domain of finance. They will ask this House to declare that in the sphere of legislation the power of veto at present possessed by the House of Lords should be so limited in its exercise as to secure the predominance of the deliberate and considered will of this House within the lifetime of a single parliament; and, further, it will be made plain that these constitutional changes are without prejudice to and contemplate in a subsequent year the substitution of the second chamber of a democratic for an hereditary basis."

"His Majesty's Government regard the placing on the statute book of provisions which will set free this House from the veto of the House of Lords, not only as the first condition of the legislative dignity and utility of the House of Commons, but as our primary and paramount duty. In the prosecution of that task we shall adopt such measures within the limits of the constitution as seem to us appropriate and adequate, and upon its successful accomplishment we stake not only our fortunes, but our existence as a Government."

These anti-veto resolutions, when sanctioned by the House of Commons, will be sent at once to the House of Lords. If they are rejected there, as they doubtless will be, the Government will attempt to override the obstruction. Failing this, they will resign and go to the country on the single issue of the veto.

Mr. Asquith could not with propriety divulge his plans for overcoming the recalcitrant peers, as the discussion of the question would have involved the crown. No prime minister could possibly ask the sovereign for the exercise of the royal prerogative upon proposals that had not received the approval of the House of Commons. When these proposals have been endorsed by the Commons, and if they are rejected by the Lords, the Government will tender the sovereign such advice as they deem proper and necessary. Con-

jecture is rife as to what this advice will be. Only two courses suggest themselves to the public mind: a demand upon the monarch to create new peers, or, more probably, to consent to a referendum, and pledge himself to abide by the result.

The Government will reintroduce the budget immediately after the veto proposals have been laid before the House of Commons. To have given the budget precedence over the veto would have been to invite certain defeat at the hands of the Nationalists and Laborites. The Government have also wisely deferred the question of the reform of the House of Lords until the limitation of the Lords' veto shall have become an accomplished fact. The Ministerial programme in its present shape commands the support of all the progressive parties. They will march unitedly against the House of Lords, and if they fail in the present Parliament they will fight shoulder to shoulder in the electoral struggle.

A DISCREDITABLE CHAPTER.

Conscientious Conservatives, who have been hanging their heads in shame over the tergiversation of their Ottawa leaders, earnestly hope that the vote on the naval question will forever close the most discreditable chapter in Canadian political history since 1873.

Mr. Borden and Mr. Foster have put themselves beyond defence or excuse. They abjectly and absolutely surrendered to evil influences in the party against their personal convictions, expressed with clearness and force only a few months ago. Mr. Borden even drew down a challenge to his speech in Halifax in October last. He capitulated only at the eleventh hour, but he stultified his party and himself the more completely on that account. He had not even paved the way and prepared public opinion for his change of policy. He took parliament and the country by surprise.

Mr. Borden and Mr. Foster may make some atonement by seeking to keep the chapter closed. The race incendiaries will try to re-open it here and there in the next election, according to the temper of each constituency. The Hugheses, the Sproules, and the other professional flag-flappers will revel in the opportunity of playing upon anti-Quebec prejudice. The Mail and Empire will continue its unwholy work, which has already brought down upon it the censure of a section of a Conservative press. But the decent elements of the party hope the issue is now dead and buried, and will exert themselves to keep it under cover.

THE USE OF THE HANDS.

"Are we losing the use of our hands?" asks Sir Frederick Treves, in the Nineteenth Century. His regretful reply is, "Yes." In every direction he notes a definite loss of manual skill. Sixteen or seventeen machines do the work that the two hands of the shoemaker used to do on the "upper" of the boot. Spinning and weaving are almost gone. The knitting of the Scottish peasant women, the embroidery that was the pride of kings' daughters, are well-nigh forgotten. Needle-making and pin-making have quite disappeared. Carpentry is invaded in every department by the machine.

Papermaking, bookbinding, engraving, all tell the same tale. The culture of the hands is called for less and less. The machine dominates us. The man of today could not make the flint implements of the Neolithic age. We are paying heavily, too, for the "division of labor," that fetish of the economists. "Divide the labor," said Ruskin, "and you divide the man." The man who in pioneer days made a whole wagon had to be more resourceful than the man today who makes only the tiny part of it, say, a motor car. The "hardy" man was not so rare a couple of generations ago as he is today. Machinery routinizes and monotonizes the laborer's duties, and by narrowing the scope of his work it tends to cramp his intellect. He has not the pride in his work that the old artist craftsman had.

But machinery brings compensations, even apart from the power it puts into the hands of man to increase the product of his labor. It lightens the physical strain on the great majority of workers and helps them to conserve their nervous energy. Against its narrowing tendency must be placed the development of responsibility by dealing with expensive and powerful machines. Machinery also aids workers to pass more readily from one branch of employment to another, through what the economists call the inter-convertibility of industries. It produces an increasing similarity between many processes of manufacture. For instance, many bicycle factories were converted into automobile or sewing machine factories in recent years, with no serious displacement of labor. It must be remembered, too, that because machinery makes a laborer more productive, the cost of production is diminished, the demand for the product of his labor is enlarged, and he is enabled to purchase with the reward of his own labor a larger stock of the products of his brother's labor.

The disadvantages of machinery are thus counteracted, but they are so serious that efforts are being made to revive the handicrafts for the sake of society. Educationists, too, are recognizing the need of bringing the hands into closer relation with the brain. "Every youth from the king's son downwards," said Ruskin, "should learn to do something finely and thoroughly with his hands." This is the principle underlying some modern tendencies in education, such as manual training, which must be distinguished from technical training, or learning a particular trade.

The Opposition bungled the naval business all round. They torsook the right policy for the wrong one, and then talked public interest to death.

Chief Engineer Sothmann, of the hydro-electric commission, bought his motor car for \$1,250, and sold it to the commission for \$1,600. The rise in the cost of living is becoming oppressive.

There is a certain shrewdness in the tactics of the minority members of the Lumsden inquiry committee. "When you find you have no case, resign from the committee, and then raise a cry that the inquiry is a farce." It is an ingenious method of kicking up a dust to cover a retreat.

The curtain has been rung down on the Borden-Foster naval performance. Messrs. Borden and Foster were merely marionettes, the wires being pulled by the Roblin-Rogers combination hidden in the flies. Self-respecting Conservatives hope there will be no second act.

Messrs. Lewis, Chisholm, Barnard, Doherty and Daniels, members of parliament, had six different views on the naval question in the debate, none of them agreeing with Mr. Borden's; but they merged their views in Mr. Borden's when the party whip was cracked.

Whenever a bill appears that Sir Whitney doesn't like he cries, "Off with its head!" like Alice in Wonderland. He has the most dutiful following that a dictator could wish for. The meekness with which his supporters submit to be bullied and brow-beaten is a marvelous exhibition of party loyalty.

Patten, the Chicago wheat and cotton corner, was hissed and hooted on the Manchester exchange. It was very different from the treatment Patten receives at home. There he is a hero of high finance. The Manchester men fail to distinguish between a corner and a hold-up, and with good reason. A cotton corner puts Manchester in a corner.

QUITE SO.
[Hollow Intelligence.]
Far away fields may look green, but they don't always yield a big crop.

A COSTLY PROCEEDINGS.

With Mr. Lobb, the solicitor of the hydro-electric commission, drawing \$20 a day for his services, and Chief Engineer Sothmann and Hon. Adam Beck's mobilities on the commission at good prices, it may well be said that the commission is being worked economically—for its well-paid officials. As the municipalities in the Municipal Union-Stratford included—will have to shoulder all this expense in the end, they may well be exercised over the particular brand of "economy" that is being put out there.

UNNECESSARY.

A new qualified judge in one of the small towns of the South was trying one of his first criminal cases. The accused was an old dandy who was charged with robbing a henchman. He had been in court before on a similar charge and was then acquitted. "Well, Tom," began the judge, "I see you're in trouble again." "Yes, sir," replied the dandy; "the last time I was in court was to get my lawyer this time." "Who is your lawyer this time?" asked the judge. "I ain't got no lawyer this time," answered Tom. "I'm going to tell the truth."

ALL CORRECT.

The professional point of view is rare that of the humanitarian. A passenger on a London omnibus calls out to the conductor: "Ere, there! Whoa! There's an old chap fallen off the bus!" "All right," responds the conductor, cheerfully. "It's paid 'is fare!"

GOOD ENOUGH.

Wife—I suppose if you should meet some pretty young girl you would cease to care for me?
Husband—What nonsense you talk! What do I care for youth or beauty? You suit me all right.

THE HAIR HARVEST.

Human hair is a not unimportant article of commerce, and the annual harvest of hair is as regular and scarcely less sure than that of wheat. The light hair is almost exclusively a German product, and it is collected by the agents of a Dutch company. Really golden hair is so highly prized that dealers in the stock for the inspection of favored customers only. Most of the dark brown hair comes from France. Black hair comes chiefly from Brittany and the south of France, where it is annually collected by the agents of Parisian houses. The average yearly crop of fine black hair is some 200,000 pounds. The price paid for each head of hair ranges from 20 cents to \$1, according to its weight and beauty, the weight seldom rising above one pound, or falling below twelve ounces. The itinerant dealers in human hair are always provided with an extensive assortment of ribbons, laces and cheap jewelry, with which they make their purchases as frequently as with money. The hair thus obtained is transmitted to the wholesale houses, where it is dressed, sorted and sold to the hairworkers in the larger towns at about \$2 per pound. Very choice heads, however, may be sold for \$10, \$20 or even \$50, the retail dealer eventually receiving \$100 or more for it. Dealers in human hair become astonishingly expert, and can usually tell at a glance, or at least by smelling, whether the particular head of hair originated in France, Germany, England, Ireland or Scotland.

AN UNGALLANT OUTLOOK.

"Against the ungallant outlook of some husbands causes divorce," said ex-Gov. Pennybaker, in a witty after-dinner speech in Philadelphia. "It is amazing what an ungallant outlook some men have. I said one day to a Bucks County farmer: 'Have you got a wife, Hans?' 'Why, yes, to tell the truth, I have,' Hans answered. 'For the little bit the critics eat, it's worth a man's while to be without one.'"

OH! YOU HATS!

[Windsor Record.]
A woman may hide her light under a bushel, but not her spring hat—London Advertiser.
No; but she could hide both the light and the bushel measure under her hat.

Three Specials in New Wash Fabrics for Monday's Selling

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An exact imitation of raw silk. Price about one-quarter, and will wear four times as long as raw silk. All the newest shades.

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Fine French Poplinettes

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MAIL ORDERS FILLED.

MAIL ORDERS FILLED.

Style

Kingsmill's

Quality

and still have a little room left for her dome of thought.

ECONOMY.

[Kincardine Review.]
They complain of the high cost of living, and yet they put a forty-cent muzzle on a ten-cent dog.

YES, INDEED.

[Bobcaygeon Independent.]
Suit lost by Hon. George E. Foster. Finder is welcome to keep it, by paying costs.

THEIR EUROPEAN JOURNEY.

[Yonkers Statesman.]
"And did you go through Berlin while touring abroad?" asked the caller.
"Did we, dear?" asked the wife to her husband.
"Yes," replied the busy man from behind his paper; "don't you remember we bought some gasoline there?"
"And Paris—did you stop in Paris?" continued the other.
"Did we, dear?" asked the wife of her better half.

EASY AT FIRST.

[Chicago News.]
"Love at first sight is easy," remarked the young widow.
"Just so," rejoined the old bachelor. "Few people can stand the test of a long-drawn-out acquaintance."

OVERWORKING THE METER.

[Megawatt Blatter.]
Mother—Come, William, quick, Minna has tried to kill herself by hanging gas! Father—Good heavens! Think what the gas bill will be this month!
A FAMILY TRAIT.
[Presbyterian Standard.]
Ascum—I set there's some talk upon the question of abolishing capital punishment. Would you vote to abolish it?
Logie—No, sir, capital punishment was good enough for my ancestors, and it's good enough for me.

VOLUNTARY BLINDNESS.

[Weekly Times, Melbourne.]
She—I saw you on a tramcar the other evening, Mr. Savolinski.
He—Did you? Why, I didn't see you. She—I suppose not. I was standing.

CORRECT COUNTING.

[Oklahoma State Journal.]
The Japanese have added a course of proper courtship to the curriculum of the girls' schools in Japan. Here in the United States we would, as a nation, think of establishing a school for teaching ducks to swim.

DIFFICULT CASE.

[Town and Country, Sydney.]
A doctor who was spending a rare and somewhat dull night at his own fireside, received the following message from three fellow-practitioners: "Please step over to the club and join us at a rubber of bridge."
"Jane, dear," he said to his wife, "I am called away again. It appears to be a difficult case—there are three other doctors on the spot already."

RIGHT AND WRONG.

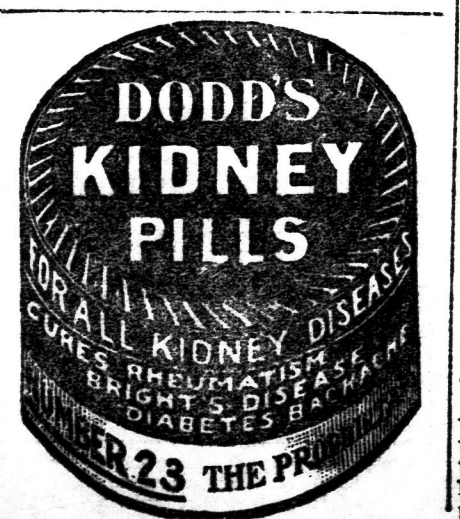
[George Macdonald.]
Alas! how easily things go wrong!
A sigh too much or a kiss too long, And there follows a mist and a weeping rain, And life is never the same again.

Alas! how hardly things go right!

'Tis hard to watch on a summer's night, For the sigh will come and the kiss will stay, And the summer's night is a winter day, And yet how easily things go right! If the sigh and the kiss of a winter's night, Come deep from the soul in the stronger day.

And things can never go badly wrong.

If the heart be true and the love be strong; For the mist, if it comes, and the weeping rain, Will be changed by the love into sunshine again.



MACKAY AGAIN ROUTS WHITNEY

Another Hot Cross Fire Between Leaders of Legislature.

OVER GAME ACT BILL

Opposition Chief Points Out That Government Blunder in Handling of Measure.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, March 12.—Although Friday's sitting of the Legislature was a usual brief and sparsely attended, the House got through considerable business, routine and otherwise. The proceedings were enlivened by a spirited tilt between Sir James Whitney and Hon. Mr. Mackay, regarding the report made by Mr. A. Kelly Evans, who was appointed a royal commissioner to investigate conditions regarding the fish and game of the province. Mr. Mackay inquired why the report had not been presented to the House, as he understood it had been in the Government's hands for several weeks. Sir James replied that the report was only in draft form as yet. There was a hot interchange of retort before the matter dropped.

Liquor License Amendments.

Hon. Mr. Hanna introduced in blank a bill to amend the liquor license act. Its provisions will not be known until the document comes back from the printer's hands, as a definite decision will not be made on some points until next meeting of the cabinet. Many proposals and requests have been made by the temperance people, and all have been under consideration by the Government. One oft-repeated suggestion will be added to the liquor license act, and it will be added to the liquor license act, and it will be added to the liquor license act.

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pose of protecting the animals, it was necessary to have a close season. The open season for these animals in future would be from the 1st of December to the 1st of April, and the close season from April to Nov. 30.

One of the most important clauses in the bill provides that in future hunters may kill only one instead of two deer. The deer of the province were being killed off too rapidly, Dr. Reaume explained, and something would have to be done to protect them. Complaints had been made, he continued, that hunters left their decoys in the water all night and on Sundays when shooting deer, and it was hard conditions. The clause had been inserted in the bill, therefore, providing that all duck hunters must remove their decoys every night, and especially on Sundays.

In future non-residents of the Province must pay a license before they will be allowed to trap fur-bearing animals. Dr. Reaume stated that American trappers had been in the Province and killed fur-bearing animals promiscuously, and in order to prevent that a fee would be charged before any outsiders could get permission to trap fur-bearing animals. Those, he said, were the chief provisions of the bill.

Leaders Clash.

It was at this point that the leaders measured mettle in a rapid piece of rapid play, in which the Liberal chief, Hon. A. G. MacKay, asked what had become of the report of Mr. A. Kelly Evans, who was appointed by the administration as a provincial commissioner to investigate the operation of the present act, with a view to suggesting improvements and reforms.

"Surely," quoth the Liberal leader, "before this House is asked to deal with such a bill as that submitted by the minister, it would be wise and proper to have the commissioner's report before us. I understand that the minister is asking the House to pass a bill which is a mere amendment to the present act, and we should have the information of the report of the commissioner before we are called upon to revise the existing act."

"I just received the report a short time ago," explained the Minister of Public Works, "and I have not yet had the opportunity of going over all of it."

"I understand," came back the Liberal leader, "that the report has been in for some time. Surely it should be forthcoming before we are called upon to deal with the present amendment."

Then Mr. Sam Clarke (West North-land) took a hard word. "Who, he wanted to know, was withholding the document, and for what reason?"

At this point the Premier rushed in. To what was the honorable member alluding?

"I asked why it was being withheld," replied Mr. Clarke. "When there is such a thing as it will be tabled," declared Sir James. "There is no such report in existence."

"A moment ago I was informed that the report was in the possession of the minister," observed Hon. Mr. MacKay.

Whitney Backs Down.

The Premier sought to capitulate. "As I understand it," he commented, "the report is in the possession of the minister."

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a little less certainly, "a draft report has been submitted, but as I said a moment ago, no report has been received."

Hon. Mr. MacKay generously offered a way out. "I understand," said he, "that the report may be an interim report, but the House has a right to have that information before it before it is called upon to deal with this bill."

But the Premier would not. "Probably I am to blame for the delay," he stated. "The draft report has been lying on my desk. There is no more's nest about this thing. It is only a draft report."

"There can properly be no such thing as a draft report," the Liberal leader stated, rising. "The moment the document leaves the commissioner's hands and passes into those of the Government it becomes a report. There can be no such thing as a draft, with some-thing being said or altered, and a report. The Premier was on his feet again. 'There will be no doctoring, and no revision,' he exclaimed, 'so there need be no insinuations.'"

"I am not in the habit of insinuating," came back Hon. Mr. MacKay. "What I said, I said. The moment the document left the commissioner's hands it could no longer be a draft report. It became an official document to which this House was entitled."

A Petulant Premier.
"I am not going to bandy language any longer," quoth the Premier petulantly. "I say there is no report."

"It may be an interim report, but there is a report to which we are entitled. The minister has said so. He is here in his place. He cannot rise and contradict me."

All eyes were directed towards Hon. Dr. Reaume. But he sat silent.

"The document," continued the Liberal leader, "is a report, and it is of unusual importance. It is slushing in his character and findings. There should have been no delay in placing it before the House."

"We are all much obliged for the information the leader of the Opposition has given us," commented Sir James caustically, "about a report that to one known was in existence."

"I gave the information on the strength of the admission of the minister in charge," was Hon. Mr. MacKay's effective final comment.

CANNOT TOUCH MONEY OF A NON-RESIDENT

Ottawa, March 11.—An important judgment was given by the supreme court today. It establishes the principle that the province of New Brunswick cannot, under the successor duties act, collect duties on moneys in a bank within the province and belonging to an estate of a non-resident of the province.

The case in point was the appeal of Lovitt vs. the King, which was allowed, with costs. The late George N. Lovitt of Yarmouth, N. S., at the time of his death had moneys deposited in the Bank of British North America at St. John, N. B., and the supreme court of New Brunswick ordered the executors to pay the province \$3,251 succession duties.

This is nullified.

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