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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16.

A BOON FOR THE FARMERS.

The Laurier Government has decided upon another progressive move—free rural mail delivery. This announcement, was made yesterday by the brilliant young postmaster-general, Mr. Lemieux.

This matter has engaged the attention of the Government for years, and the experiment in the United States has been closely followed. The first duty of the Government was, of course, to set the finances of the postoffice department in order. Sir Wm. Mulock, when he became postmaster-general, was confronted by a huge deficit, to overcome which he devoted his great energy and ability. When he succeeded in securing a financial equilibrium in his department, his next step was the reduction of the cost of postage. The immediate result was necessarily a loss of revenue and an increase of expenditure, but the former was repaired in a few years by the growth of business, as he had foreseen, and in 1902 the department "turned the corner" with the modest surplus of \$5,000 which has increased to considerably over a million dollars.

The admirable administration of the postoffice in the past twelve years has paved the way for rural mail delivery. The Government has had to count the cost before taking any step. It was easy for politicians who had no responsibility for the finances of the country to clamor for this service. The real credit belongs to the men who have lifted the postal department out of the rut, and put it on a basis which makes rural mail delivery a possibility.

An outline of the plans formulated by Mr. Lemieux will be found in the news columns of The Advertiser. No doubt he will elaborate the scheme more fully in a few days. At the outset rural delivery will probably be restricted to the older and long-settled sections of the Dominion, and will be extended as population warrants. Western Ontario presents fewer difficulties in the operation of the system than any other part of the country, owing to the uniform excellence of the roads and the fact that the townships are thickly populated.

BRITISH OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Arrangements are now proceeding for the application of the British old age pension law, which goes into force on the first of January next.

These arrangements involve the construction of a complicated administrative system, the cost of which will amount to a vast sum. How the money is to be provided the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not yet announced, nor have any of the political prophets ventured to guess, but it is hardly likely the Government would embark upon such an undertaking without having first considered the question of ways and means.

The plan to be followed in carrying out the pension law may be thus outlined: In the first place the applicant for a pension will be required to fill up a form which may be procured at any postoffice. The application must show that the applicant is 70 years old or over; that he has for at least 20 years been a British subject; that his yearly income, earned or otherwise, is less than \$155; that he has not within a year received poor law relief, and that he has always worked according to his ability, opportunity and need. If in this latter respect his record is lacking, he may make good the deficiency by showing that for ten successive years before he reached the age of 60 he has paid dues in a recognized benefit society. He must, moreover, be of law-abiding character, and be able to show that he has not within ten years been imprisoned without the option of a fine or been convicted of drunkenness.

If on these points the legal requirements are satisfied the applicant will be prima facie entitled to receive a pension of \$1.25 per week, provided the annual income of the applicant from all sources is less than \$105. A sliding scale determines the amount to be paid if the income sworn to is more than \$105 and less than \$155. An income of \$155 or more debars the applicant from a pension.

The application, after being filled up, signed and sworn to, is to be sent to the exchequer of the district, who will act as pension officer, and whose duty it will be to investigate the applicant's statement and collect proofs as to its veracity. Having completed his enquiries the pension officer forwards the application with either an affirmative or a negative recommendation to the pensions committee of the local council, whose allowance for expenses they will get nothing else—it is estimated, will aggregate close on a million dollars a year. Disappointed applicants are allowed the right to appeal to the local government board, whose decision will be final. If the application is approved the applicant will be forwarded a series of coupons, dated a week apart, which, as they successively fall due, will be payable at the local postoffice.

It will thus be seen that every precaution is taken against fraudulent claims, which at the outset, at least, are pretty sure to be numerous.

THREE OF A KIND.

Three evil omens for public morality are the renominations of George E. Foster, George E. Fowler and Rufus Pope, for the House of Commons.

It is a grave reproach to the Conservative party that these men have been chosen as its standard-bearers after the most conclusive evidence of their unfitness for positions of public trust.

Foster speculated for his own profit with the funds destined for the protection of widows and orphans—the savings of members of the Independent Order of Foresters, many of them poor men. They have reason to execrate the man who, for his own miserable gain, risked the hard-earned money which represented on their part a self-denial practiced out of loving care for those nearest and dearest to them. He is unique among Canadian politicians as an example of cold-blooded selfishness, yet to the shame of this country he holds his place as one of the leaders of a great political party.

Pope, the Conservative candidate in Compton, Que., was the ringleader of the gang of exploiters that cleaned up a fortune in Northwest lands through collusion with two great railway corporations. These politicians not only used their parliamentary pull to obtain exclusive information as to the location of a railway line, but financed their deals on the credit loaned them by a railway magnate, thus placing themselves under obligations to a constant applicant for favors at Ottawa. Pope's violent opposition to the Grand Trunk Pacific project is clearly explained by these transactions.

Fowler was a member of the same gang, and had in addition some deals on his own account upon which the light was turned by the insurance commission, and which the present head of the Independent Order of Foresters characterized in withering terms. He is the chief purveyor of personal slander in the Opposition ranks, but has been too cowardly to repeat in public the libels he is free to circulate under the shelter of parliamentary privilege. The man is a disgrace to any public assembly, and his unanimous renomination for Kings and Albert, N. B., and his retention of his high place in the Conservative councils, are among the ugliest features of Canadian public life.

Imagine a purity crusade with this precious trio in the van!

Talk is cheap. The Laurier Government does things.

Free rural mail delivery next! The Laurier Government has been always the farmers' friend.

Laurier's first Ontario meeting was a record-breaker. Niagara Falls has set the pace for Strathroy.

Mr. Borden is shrewdly travelling with four premiers in his train. Laurier has no need of such drawing cards.

Those citizens who wouldn't take the trouble to vote on the water bylaw are perhaps the loudest grumblers over the water shortage.

The Montreal Star and the Halifax Herald, both Conservative, called upon Mr. Borden to cast Foster out of the party household. If the Conservative party will not do its own housecleaning, can it be trusted with the country's?

NOT YET.

[Exchange.]
"No, old chap—she's a perfect stranger to me."

"Humph! She may be a stranger, but she's far from perfect!"

THEY KNOW HIS WAYS.

[Philadelphia Record.]
Wigg—So you believe in signs, eh? Well, when a man is always making new friends what is that a sign of?

Wagg—It's generally a sign that his old friends are on to him.

PRAISE AND BLAME.

[T. P.'s Weekly.]
The mere fact that praise and blame are at present the corner stones of our moral and social systems goes for nothing. We shall outgrow that just as we have more or less outgrown the primitive desire to kill each other. And can any one deny that a world in which blame did not exist would be far more habitable, civilized and logical?

THE MEN AUSTRALIA WANTS.

[Britannia.]
The type of men we require is the man who is not afraid of hardships, who is game to strike out "on his own," and who can rely on himself to pull through. Some people have an idea that an immigrant should have everything done for him by a paternal government—his passage paid and land ready awaiting his

arrival. It would, of course, be fatal for the government to spoonfeed immigrants in this way.

THE WIFE WILL TURN.

[M. A. P.]
The infant of the household was in its cradle. The head of the house was at home, peevish and fault-finding. At length he became unendurable.
"You've done nothing but make mistakes tonight!" he growled.
"Yes," she answered, meekly. "I began by putting the wrong baby to bed."

NATURE AND ART.

[Photographic Magazine.]
Eliza Jane two lovers had.
The one was Nature, Father Art.
They were so very near alike
You couldn't tell the two apart.

At last, to test their qualities
And give to one the vantage place,
She proffered each a photograph
Of her ethereal, tempting face.

Art snatched the pretty paper prize
And pressed it to his heart, and then
He put it to his marble lips
And kissed it o'er and o'er again.

But Nature hurled the painted gift
Aside with haughty, proud disdain,
And, grasping her with strong embrace,
He kissed the plump Eliza Jane.

"Begone, O Art!" the maiden cried;
"Let critics hymn your praise sublime!
But men are men and girls are girls,
And I'll take Nature every time."

THE NEED OF THE AGE.

[Baltimore American.]
"Talk about your noiseless powder and your horseless carriages," said the cynic.
"Yes?" queried the optimist.
"The crying need of this age has not yet been invented," continued the cynic, gloomily.
"What is it?"
"The smokeless cigarette."

USELESS.

[Life.]
Gatemans (at the musical comedy)—
Don't you want to come back?
Castleton—No.
"Well, take this pass check, anyway. You can hand it to some chap on the outside."

"My dear fellow, I haven't an enemy in the world."

WELL UP.

[Baltimore American.]
"Is your son derelict in his studies, Mrs. Comesp?"
"Yes, indeed, he is, and it makes us so proud of the dear boy to have all his teachers say so."

**"Three Little Maids."**

The last presentation of the English musical comedy success, "Three Little Maids," will be given at the Grand this evening.

Charley Grapewin.
Probably no comedian has a greater record of success appended to his efforts with certain songs than Charley Grapewin, who opens a three-nights' engagement at the Grand tomorrow. He is still singing "The Old Oaken Bucket for Mine" and "You'll Be Sorry in the Morning." Mr. Grapewin's supporting company is said to be especially effective, while a feature is a chorus that is large and attractive. The usual Saturday matinee will be given at popular prices.

MANAGERS OF LIBERAL PARTY

(Continued From Page 1.)

preparing to throw themselves into the fight with determination.

No Snap Verdict.

The series of meetings, which Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to address at Niagara Falls, Strathroy, Tilbury, Clinton North Bay and Jackson's Point have been so arranged as to cover most of the important parts of the province. Later on Sir Wilfrid will speak in the county of Cornwall and possibly in one or two other Ontario constituencies before the election day comes around. In fixing the latter for the last week of October and dissolving parliament tomorrow the Government is looking for a snap verdict, for the notice is a great deal longer than has been customary in the past.

The party candidates have already been selected in a large proportion of the Ontario seats, and the same is true of the other provinces.

Province Almost Solid.

In Quebec it would not be surprising if quite a number of the seats were not contested at all on behalf of the Conservative party, as it is generally conceded that Opposition speakers are unable to make any headway in that province against the remarkable personal popularity of the Prime Minister. A careful canvass of the Quebec constituencies which was recently made on behalf of one of the largest corporations in Canada elicited the information that the Opposition need not look for more than two seats in the province. The county of L'Islet, which had been solidly Liberal from Confederation, returned a Conservative member at the last general election, but is practically certain to return to its former allegiance in the present contest. Mr. Leonard, another of the small Conservative following from Quebec, had only 45 of a majority out of 3,600 votes in the county of Laval. Sherbrooke is another old Conservative stronghold which the Liberals expect to capture.

Will Return to Quebec.

After the Prime Minister has finished his tour of Ontario he is to proceed to the neighboring province, where he fired the first gun in the campaign at Sorel a little over a week ago. The itinerary in Quebec is now being planned by the Central Liberal Committee in Montreal.

There were two provinces in which the Opposition failed at the last general election to secure the return of a single member—Nova Scotia and British Columbia. During the past winter the county of Colchester elected a supporter of Mr. Borden by means which have been the subject of recent enquiry in the courts, and which have brought discredit upon the Conservative cause all over the country.

The Western Outlook.

In British Columbia the Government's opponents looked to the Japanese and Hindu immigration question as an easy road to victory, but since this question no longer exists they have been endeavoring to manufacture another grievance, and are complaining of federal neglect of British Columbia's requirements.

Wind-Up Sale

At 100 DUNDAS STREET, NEAR TALBOT

The balance of the J. B. MARTIN stock of CLOTHING and FURNISHING GOODS now being offered at prices cut still deeper, beginning

Tomorrow Morning at 9 o'Clock

CLOTHING

Furnishing Goods, Hats, Caps, Etc., for Men and Boys

SLAUGHTERED

With a determination to close out every article in this large stock IN THE NEXT TEN DAYS, new prices have been placed on the balance of the goods and you will have to hurry to get your share of the bargains.

Great Bargain News Briefly Told. Here Are a Few Items

MEN'S SUITS—In Tweed and Fancy Worsteds, comprising all the odds and ends and single suits. Large variety of patterns to select from Single and double-breasted. All sizes. Some worth up to \$15.00. Bunched into one lot. Your choice **\$5.45**

KNEE PANTS—Boys' Short Pants, dark colors, strong and serviceable. All sizes at **39c**

PANTS—Men's Worsteds and Tweed Pants, light and dark stripes and checks. Values up to \$3.00. Sale price **\$1.45**

SHIRTS AND DRAWERS—Scotch wool, unshrinkable Shirts and Drawers. We offer for Saturday only, at **59c**

SHIRTS—A large lot of Men's Shirts, stiff or soft bosoms, assorted sizes and colors. All go now at sacrifice price **29c**

PANTS—Men's Moleskin Working Pants, with riveted pockets; strong as iron, for **69c**

HATS—Soft and Stiff Hats, all shapes, marked at **29c, 39c, 49c**

STOCKINGS—For boys, girls and ladies; tans and black, now going at **15c**

TIES—All the Ties that formerly sold up to 50c—Four-in-hand and made-up. Take your pick at **19c**

MEN'S OVERCOATS—In Scotch and Canadian Tweeds, also in solid colors, mostly dark shades. All the popular lengths. Values from \$12.00 to \$22.00. All marked at less than half, **\$9.98 and \$6.45**

MITTS—Men's Leather Working Mitts—the guaranteed kind **19c**

UNDERWEAR—Fleece-lined Shirts and Drawers, the world-renowned "Penman" Brand, selling at this sale for **37c**

CAPS—All shapes and colors. Now **27c and 19c**

The values in this great Clothing Sale compensate for a long journey—the prices have been demoralized—Words fail to convey any idea of this great sacrifice in men's and boys' apparel. Buy now for future needs.

MEN'S SUITS

Small lots, sample suits, and one or two of a kind, in Scotch Tweeds, Worsteds, etc., single and double-breasted, well and strongly made, and would sell in the regular way at from \$12.00 to \$15.00; but to make a clean sweep, we offer them during this sale **\$5.95**

RAINCOATS—Guaranteed waterproof, of all-wool tweeds and cravenettes. All sizes, assorted patterns. Sell regularly at \$10 to \$20. The sale offers them at **\$7.95, \$5.45**

SOCKS—A strong wool working Sock at **11c**

SWEATERS—One lot assorted colors, going for **59c**

SHIRTS—Men's Flannellette Shirts, a small lot left, going at **19c**

SOCKS—Heavy wool Socks for pair **9c**

BRACES—One lot Braces for men **11c**

Raincoats

We have bunched together a lot of Raincoats and Cravenettes to complete sizes, some heavy-weights among them. Worth more than double what we ask. Come in and choose, at **\$4.95**

Buy now at the lowest prices ever heard of. Only a few days more and the great Sale of high-grade merchandise will come to an end. Select a supply for a few years, now.

STORE OPEN EVENINGS DURING THE SALE

PUBLIC SALE of the J. B. MARTIN Stock of CLOTHING and FURNISHING GOODS
100 DUNDAS STREET NEAR TALBOT

anese and Hindu immigration question as an easy road to victory, but since this question no longer exists they have been endeavoring to manufacture another grievance, and are complaining of federal neglect of British Columbia's requirements.

There are seven seats in the Pacific Coast Province, of which the Liberals think the Government may fairly look for at least five.

In the recent elections for the Saskatchewan Legislature, the Liberals doubled the score of their opponents, and there is, from the Liberal standpoint, no reason why a like showing should not be made in the approaching Federal contest in both of the new prairie provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In Manitoba, the Liberal cause has admittedly suffered from lack of oversight since Hon. Clifford Sifton's withdrawal from the cabinet, and Hon. Robert Rogers, the Conservative leader, has been counting on a walk-over. There are ten seats in Manitoba of which the Government at present holds seven and the Opposition three. Within the past few weeks, however, Mr. Sifton has resumed the direction of the party organization in the province of Manitoba and the result there may be an even break.

New Brunswick Prospects.
The present standing in New Brunswick is eight Liberals to five Conservatives. Here again Mr. Borden's hopes have been raised by the defeat of the Liberal party in the provincial elections. But it remains to be seen what effect this is going to have on Federal issues.

Mr. Borden's lieutenants have promised him a sweep in Prince Edward Island, but there are only four seats on "The Island" altogether, and one of these is at present held by a spirited Irishman, J. J. Hughes by name, who has carried the county of Kings at the last two elections, who is confident of success.

At the present stage it is perhaps too soon to talk of majorities. The Government's majority of close on seventy seats in the present House is the largest which any party has ever had in the history of Canada. Probably it will be somewhat reduced. But the managers of the Liberal campaign are leaving nothing to chance. Everywhere the work of organization is well in hand, and the six weeks which intervene between this and the counting of the votes will be employed in perfecting this work and in the presentation of the Government's case from the hustings.

Doctors prescribe Carling's Malt Extract for invalids and convalescents. 69c