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LONDON, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1907.

A FORLORN OPPOSITION.

There never was a more discordant, inefficient, and demoralized political group than the present Opposition in the House of Commons. Members of an Opposition, no less than supporters of a Government, are presumed to be bound together by an agreement upon some well understood principles. What are these cohesive principles in the case of the representatives of the Conservative party at Ottawa? If that party has stood for any policy in the last 30 years, that policy has been a protective tariff, but during the recent session we find the larger part of the Opposition voting to cut the duty on agricultural implements in half, against the advice of the leader of the party. We find the Conservative members at sixes and sevens upon the question of the steel bounties. We find the Conservative members for Montreal defending the expenditure upon the harbor of that city, and Conservative members from Ontario denouncing this feature of the Government's policy. During a previous session there was the spectacle of the Quebec wing of the Opposition condemning the autonomy bills as a betrayal of the rights of the minority, and the Ontario wing declaring that the rights of the majority had been sacrificed. We find the leader of the Opposition surrounded by lieutenants who have been convicted of sharp dealing, and shown to be untrustworthy as public men, but who are retained in the councils of the party. A cowardly scandal-monger, Fowler, of King's, is paraded through the country as a Conservative hero, so that a section of the Conservative press is driven into open revolt. Fowler is too much for the stomach of the Montreal Star, which rebukes the Opposition for not casting him out. The Star also attacks the member for the St. Antoine's division of Montreal, Mr. H. B. Ames, for giving the member of King's a certificate of character by commending his "straightforward and courageous statements." Says the Star:

To insinuate that an opponent is leading an immoral life privately and then to stubbornly and repeatedly fail to either make good his slander or withdraw it, is Mr. Ames' notion of "straightforwardness and courage." It will come as a long-awaited piece of news to many of Mr. Ames' constituents to learn just where he does stand in this Fowler business."

The Halifax Herald, an aggressive Conservative newspaper, says that under Mr. Borden's direction the Opposition is merely joggling along, "in the hope that Sir Wilfrid Laurier cannot live forever, and that by the mere ebb and flow of years the present Government may be turned out of power." The Herald adds that Mr. Borden's weakness is his lack of authority, which prevents him from really guiding his party or constructing a platform. It counsels the Opposition to quit its petty scandal-mongering and get down to bigger business.

Mr. Borden himself is a man of amiable qualities, and a high sense of honor, but it will take a leader of more firmness and decision to discipline the unruly members of his party and lift it out of the rut.

ROOSEVELT'S TRIBUTE TO BRITAIN.

The inauguration of the Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition was a fitting time for the President of the United States to give utterance to sentiments such as those which formed the significant feature of his address on that occasion. The exposition is being held in celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the landing in Virginia of the first English colonists. That event marked the real birth of the present American nation of 86,000,000 souls, to whose power and characteristics all the leading races have made their contributions. It was the transplanting over sea of English political liberties, constitutional forms, ideals of free and popular government, afterward to be transplanted in the crucible of revolution into the republican institutions under which the nation lives today. Therefore, it is that the language used by the President was most appropriate, the more so because the sentiments undoubtedly came from the heart. Mr. Roosevelt's words are well worth repeating. Said he:

"In welcoming all of you I must say a special word, first to the representatives of the people of Great Britain and Ireland. The fact that so many of our people, of whom, as it happens, I myself am one, have but a very small portion of English blood in our veins, in no way alters the other fact that this nation was founded by Englishmen, by the

Cavalier and the Puritan. Their tongue, law, literature, the fund of their common thought, made an inheritance which all of us share, and marked deep the lines along which we have developed. It was the men of English stock who did most in casting the mold into which our national character was run."

The real significance of these remarks lies in the fact that the head of the American nation no longer fears that to give expression to anything in the nature of praise or admiration of England or the English means loss of personal popularity and party prestige. It is not so very long ago that the tail-twisting orator was the ideal of the American crowd; it is but a few years since an American President demanded the recall of a British ambassador, not so much because the latter had indirectly given utterance to an opinion on a matter of domestic politics, as because the President of that day knew such action would appeal to popular sentiment.

The truth is that for many years the people of the United States had been taught by Fourth of July spellbinders, by perverted histories, and an Anglophobe press, that Britain was their secret and bitterest foe, that she only awaited the opportunity when the republic would be embroiled with some other nation to pounce upon it, and despoil its people of the liberty they so highly prize. There came a time when the United States actually became so embroiled, and it was then that the American people learned the true lesson. They found in Britain a friend in need, and the ties of blood, language, literature and laws, which had always existed, began to be realized by the masses. The revulsion of feeling was natural and inevitable. The sentiment of kinship has since been growing, and will grow the more because it is allied with a community of interest. Notwithstanding that the blood of every country in the world has been poured into the United States, and that the bulk of immigration during the past fifty years has been from non-British countries, the republic remains British in essential things, and has been well described as the greatest achievement of the Anglo-Saxon race.

The harbors of Fort William and Port Arthur are still ice-locked. This delays the eastern flow of grain which would start the eastward flow of overdue western cash.

The drawback of an imperial council, or any imperial organization possessing legislative or executive powers, would be that the representatives of any one colony might be outvoted upon any question, and that particular colony might be obliged to do something against its will. Such a condition would not make for the solidarity of the empire. An elastic organization is the only feasible one. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's motto is the true one: "Imperial Unity—Local Liberty."

The prohibition of the performance of "The Mikado" in Great Britain is a prize specimen of official silliness. That delightful and perennial work is to be lost to the British stage for fear of giving offense to the rulers of Japan, Britain's ally. The real Mikado is known to the world as a man of common sense and breadth of view, but in assuming that he would take umbrage if the play were permitted, the British censors have also assumed that he is as ridiculous as the Mikado portrayed by Gilbert.

May Day has passed with comparatively little disturbance. There was no rioting in Europe except in the Russian Empire, where rioting is a habit. In America there have been few labor troubles and these not widespread. The tide of prosperity is still in full flow, and wages and prices continue to rise. Whether wages have risen in proportion to prices cannot be demonstrated with mathematical accuracy. The one thing certain is that the demand for labor meets the supply, and in some lines exceeds it.

An association of public-spirited ladies and gentlemen has been formed to agitate for the purchase of public playgrounds. Some of the properties mentioned could have been bought for a song a few years ago, and the city will have to pay dearly as time goes on for its lack of foresight. Even at present we have city fathers rejecting the idea of spending a little money to convert private property into a public park. Apparently a vigorous educational campaign is needed to impress the local authorities with the fact that the children of London have been, sinned against. Citizens should rally to the support of the new organization.

HIS STRONG POINT.

[Catholic Standard.]

"But," said the lawyer, "your case seems hopeless. I don't see what I can do for you. You admit that you beat your wife."

"Yes," replied the defendant, "but my wife's testimony will discount that. She'd never admit that she was beaten."

A SEMINOLE LEGEND.

[Oklahoma Correspondence Kansas City Journal.]

The Seminole Indians believed that when the Great Spirit created this world he made three men, all of fair of skin. He led them to a lake and bade them jump in. The first obeyed and came out whiter than when he entered; the second hesitated, going into the lake when the water was a trifle muddy, hence came out copper colored; the third leaped in last and came out black.

According to the legend the Great Spirit

then led them to three bundles, asking each to choose one. The black man chose the heaviest, which was found to contain spade, hoe and other implements used in the performance of manual labor; the second found in his sack a fishing rod, a gun and warlike weapons; the white man chose the sack which contained pen, ink and paper, and this, so the story goes, laid the foundation for his superiority over other races.

A CURE FOR PROSPERITY.

[Hamilton Times.]

Can it be that we have been enjoying too much prosperity? Well, the prospect of numerous strikes and lockouts are well calculated to remedy that.

MEMORY.

[Thomas Bailey Aldrich.]

My mind lets go a thousand things like dates of wars and deaths of kings. And yet recalls the very hour—Twas noon by yonder village tower, And on the last blue noon in May—The wind came briskly up this way, Crisping the brook beside the road; Then, pausing here, set down its load Of pine-cones, and shook listlessly Two petals from that wild rose tree.

TRUE TO THE RECORD.

[Brookville Recorder.]

The ashes are stoutly maintaining their record of being great lie-producers.

THOUGHTFUL BURGLARS.

[Indianapolis News.]

A Denver woman, going from home for the day, locked everything up well and for the greener's benefit wrote on a card: "All out. Don't leave anything." This she stuck on the front door. On her return home she found the house ransacked and all her choicest possessions gone. To the card on the door was added: "Thanks. We haven't left much."

TECHNICAL NAME FOR ABUSE.

[Milwaukee Sentinel.]

"What we need in these campaigns, senator, is more aggressiveness on the part of our candidates."

"Maybe so," replied Senator Badger, thoughtfully. "But if there is any way whereby we can throw more mud than we did in the last campaign, I would be glad to know it."

THE TRUE IMPERIALISM.

[Victoria Colonist, Cont.]

There will be some people who will be disappointed that the conference has not dissolved itself into a council, but we feel very sure that the step taken is sufficient for the present. We draw attention to the fact that the consolidation of the empire is following the course which British institutions have every followed. It

"Broadens slowly down From precedent to precedent."

It is a process that all that is best and most permanent in our imperial fabric has been accomplished. There are countless illustrations of the error of endeavoring to manufacture artificial constitutions. The best devised schemes fail to meet the changing conditions to which they have to be applied. The strength of the British constitution consists in its elasticity. It changes with the years; it is able to embrace every possible change of conditions. This also is the strength of the imperial tie. No statesman ever devised it; no legislative body ever enacted it. The centuries have produced it. It is the evolution of the good sense and the self-governing instincts of the British people.

THE SEVEN AGES OF WHEELS.

[Puck.]

A wicker carriage we provide In which the baby first may ride.

With kilt, a yellow cart arrives— A doubtful billygoat he drives.

In knickerbockers, down the pike He creeps upon his bike.

The age of love and gasoline Demands a sixty-horse machine.

The years advance; he rides afar In his palatial private car.

Old, feeble, if the day be fair, His valet wheels him in his chair.

Then one last trip he takes on wheels, His head no higher than his heels.

A LEATHER MEDAL?

[Hamilton Spectator.]

The Canadian Press Association should give Mr. Cooper some solid recognition of his services in relieving Canadian newspaper publishers of the necessity of sending their product to subscribers in the United States.

A FOXY FOX.

[New York Tribune.]

The rector of a parish near Oxford, England, tells this fox story: As he was walking across some fields during a recent fox hunt, he heard the cry of hounds. The pack ran into the next field, and a fox came running toward him and trotted along by his side, just as a dog would do, wagging his brush. The rector walked on. The huntman, looking about, saw nothing, but the clergyman, and what seemed to be his dog, and galloped away in another direction. As soon as the coast was clear the fox gave a whisk of his tail and disappeared through a hedge.

GOOD PAY FOR TEACHERS.

[Springfield (Mass.) Republican.]

Underpaying teachers is a short-sighted policy, for national efficiency depends in a great measure on the quality of the instruction given, and it is folly to expect strong teaching at the price of day labor.

PRICE OF DIRTY STREETS.

[Montreal Gazette.]

According to a writer in the New York Medical Journal, inflammation of the eye, nasal catarrh, middle ear disease, tonsillitis, quinsy, laryngitis, bronchitis, pneumonia and influenza may all be derived from the dirt of the streets. All of which reminds us that we annually pay the price of clean streets in doctors' bills, loss of wages and suffering.

LAURIER'S MOTTO.

[Brookville Recorder.]

"Imperial unity, local liberty," sounds pretty well. Everything Laurier says has the right ring about it.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

[Chicago News.]

Most people look grave when they are buried in thought.

Worry is one of the things that refuse to bump the bumps.

Freedom of speech has enabled many a man to give it to himself in the neck.

A nuisance is a nuisance, no matter what particular kind of nuisance he is.

Put your best foot forward when you go into a store to try on a pair of new shoes. Don't waste time trying to impress people with the importance of your own importance.

IN REAL DISTRESS.

[Montreal Star.]

A New York miss of 13 has discovered that she can no longer live on an income of \$15,000 a year. Even the rich are feeling the dreadful pinch of the cost of living.

WANTS ENGLAND TO RECIPROCATE

Premier Deakin Suggests an Experiment in Preference.

GREATEST ASSET OF EMPIRE

The Purchasing Power of the Entire Race Should Be Used Unitedly.

London, May 1.—The précis of the debate at the imperial conference today is preceded by a note from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, announcing that at Premier Deakin's request the summary of the first portion of the Australian premier's address, delivered Tuesday, is included.

It appears from the reissued précis that Mr. Deakin opened the question from an almost entirely academic point of view. After glancing back over the progress of the preference movement, which was commenced at the very first conference in 1887 by Premier Hofmeyr, of Cape Colony, he went on to show how foreign imports to the colonies had shown an increasingly higher percentage than British imports during the last fifty years.

Resuming today, the premier of the Commonwealth said that the purchasing power of the British empire was an enormous asset and should be used unitedly. He contended that if retaliation were in prospect the powers discriminating against Britain and the colonies would desire to treat, especially if those countries were doing a large export trade with the empire. The Commonwealth would, he said, not abolish its customs tariff, but discrimination was possible, and the advantage given British goods would enable them to replace foreign goods, and thus bring about a large addition to the trade between Britain and Australia.

It was to be anticipated that the day would soon arrive when there would be a committee of experts whose duty it would be to review the trade of the empire as a whole with a view to increasing the trade between the various constituent parts. Opinion in Australia was steadily moving towards preference, though the hope of an early grant of reciprocity by the mother country had never been strong enough to encourage them to elaborate a schedule of mutual concessions. The revision of the customs tariff by the new parliament would give an opportunity of reconsidering everything, including the provision for limiting preference to British ships manned by white sailors.

Preference Not Protection.

Mr. Deakin concluded that there should be preference in population as well as in trade, and preference also in the question of party politics. Preference was not to be confused with protection as competition between the colonies would suffice to keep prices on a normal level. Australians were already the third best customer for the products of the United Kingdom, and it should be remembered that Britain's outward trade with continental countries was almost, if not quite, at its limit, while the colonies were only at the beginning of their expansion. He suggested assistance to shipping, as by opening a second Suez Canal, in which New Zealand would do its best in the matter of bringing Australia within twenty days of the United Kingdom via Canada.

Jameson With Deakin.

Dr. Jameson endorsed every word of Premier Deakin. He advocated preference as an experiment. He did not ask the home Government to change the imperial fiscal policy, but to change its methods. He felt sure the opinion of the workmen of the United Kingdom was that under preference they would gain. Cape Colony would be unanimous in granting preference if reciprocity were established, however small.

Mr. Moor, of Natal, believed in a discriminating scientific tariff. What objection, he asked, was there to making the experiment?

The conference here adjourned until tomorrow, when, it is understood, Sir Wilfrid Laurier will speak, possibly for half an hour. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George will reply on behalf of the home Government. It is hoped to finish the debate tomorrow.

The London Chamber of Commerce entertained the premiers at the Hotel Cecil tonight, and gave evidence, despite the vigor of a small section of those present, that the chamber is strongly in favor of colonial preference. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who, as usual, was given a splendid reception, reiterated his belief that, no matter what the decision of this country on the question, Canada would not abate one iota of her preference. (Loud cheers.) Had not Canadians some ground to appeal to Britain with regard to preferences, and to say that it was a question which should engage not only the attention, but the action of the people of this country? Concluding, he spoke warmly of the potentialities of the route from Britain to Australia, and the far east, via Canada, facilitated by a fast line of steamers doing the journey from England to Canada in four days.

Premier Deakin promised a warm welcome to the Chambers of Commerce in Australia in 1908. He spoke at length and vigorously on the question of preference, his remarks being vociferously applauded.

Hon. Mr. Deakin, speaking at the Victoria League, said: "I better understanding is all that is required to perfect the union of the empire."

The audience at the theater at Namur decides the fate of debutantes on the stage by vote. The candidates usually appear in three different plays before it is decided whether they may continue or must retire.

J. H. CHAPMAN & CO

FRIDAY BARGAIN DAY
Hundreds of Dress Goods
REMNANTS

A big sale of desirable Dress Goods remnants for Bargain Day and Saturday. Choice of hundreds of remnants from 1 yard to 6, including voiles, colliennes, crepe de chene, lusters, cashmeres, cord de soie, nun's veiling, albatros; cord de chene, plaids, cravenettes, tweeds, worsteds, plain cloths, broadcloths, venetians, panamas, sedans, serge, poplin, roxanas, pebble cloths, etc. You may attest the worth of our bargain day offerings by attending this remnant sale—prices go to rock bottom—almost half price.

Black Silk Coats and Capes

We offer eight Black Silk Coats, made of taffeta, and richly trimmed; also about the same number of black silk capes; the values of both average nearly \$5.00. Choice of these stylish garments tomorrow and Saturday (if they're not all sold) at\$6.00

English Tapestry Carpet, pure all-wool pile, choice and artistic patterns, colorings in pleasing combinations—a grade that you make no mistake in buying. Price at yard, made and laid.....55c

Display of Handbags

We are making an early display of White Canvas Washable Hand Bags, that go with the light, airy summer tub suits. We have one in the envelope style at 25c; another in the handle style, with nickel and gilt frames, at 35c—it's best to buy these necessities early.

Black Leather Hand Bags, leather-covered frame, riveted. At75c
9-Inch Black Leather Bag, with oxidized frame. At \$1.00; 10-inch size in the same at\$1.25
A Leather-Lined Black Seal Grain Bag, besides other styles, at\$1.50
Square Bags, in tan, navy, green, blue and brown. At\$1.00 and \$1.25
Real Leather Hand Bags; all sizes; up to\$10.00

Oak Curtain Poles

With fittings complete. Bargain Day and Saturday, each20c

Men's Spring Overcoats

Silk faced to the edge, made of black cheviot; worth \$12.00. This is the premier bargain of the season in men's light-weight overcoats. At\$10.00

Black and White Silk

Waists, Special at \$2.75

Three-quarter sleeves, and buttoned in the back. Lace insertion and tucked front. Long Muslin Kimonos—just right for wear now. Full length, nicely made, deep collars, dainty effects. Special\$1.15

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\$1.25 White Lawn Waists Reduced

Three styles in Ladies' White Lawn Waists, never sold for less than \$1.25. Either three-quarter or full-length sleeves; buttoned in the back. One style has lace insertion, with a little square yoke; the other two have all-over embroidery fronts and tucks. Choice\$1.00

Ribbons Specialized

Black and white and navy and white Plaid Taffeta Ribbon, 5 inch, at only, a yard60c
Fallette and Duchess Satin Ribbon—every shade. At, a yard40c

\$1.50 Kid Gloves \$1.19

We repeat one of the biggest Glove offerings we've made this season—3-4 Length Kid Gloves, in black, white, brown, tan, gray and heaver. All sizes. Choice\$1.19

Housecleaning Helps

60 only. Handle Shoe and Stove Brushes; were 25c; on sale Bargain Day and Saturday10c
Hi-Gloss Furniture Polish, 2 boxes for5c
Ammonia, large packages, each5c
Liquid Stove Polish, a bottle10c
Toilet Soap, at, a cake1c

Ladies' Raincoats

Full-Length Cravenette Raincoat, fawn and gray. Under-priced for Bargain Day\$4.85

Those Gray Skirts \$3.85

We were able to procure another lot of those Gray Tweed Walking Skirts to sell at \$3.85—pleated and plain, nine-gore style, with straps and buttons; strictly tailor-made. There's plain and fancy effects, in the most popular shade. A skirt you will admire greatly. At\$3.85

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Up to the age of 12 Turkish girls are as free and untrammelled as European children, but with her 12th birthday the girl becomes a woman. She adopts the "tenarcham" and joins that silent sisterhood who are condemned to see the world darkly through a veil, without having lost any of their natural desire to participate in its gayeties.

Sardines used to be brought into the markets of Europe pressed and salted. Not more than half a century ago the custom arose of canning them in oil. For a time butter was used.

A garden composed entirely of plants bearing blue flowers has been laid out on the estate of Sir Elliott Lees, Dorsetshire, England.

Pianos to Rent.

Pianos rented from \$2 per month up wards. Six months' rent allowed in case of purchase. Nordheimer Company, Limited, 183 Dundas street.