

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1919

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EAST CLAIMS THE LEADER.

The unanimous nomination of Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King by the Liberal convention of Prince county, Prince Edward Island, and his acceptance, settle the much discussed question of the new leader's choice of a constituency. With four offers of seats before him, Hon. Mr. King announced that he would consider the offers in the order in which they had been tendered. Gengary was first in the field, but when the United Farmers decided to place a candidate in that constituency the opposition leader declined to run there for the excellent reason that the aims of the farmers' party were so in accord with the principles of the Liberal platform that a contest was unnecessary. The unity of the Liberal opposition in the constituency of Prince and his enthusiasm, as well as the evident appreciation of the honor by the electors of opposite political opinions, gave the leader every reason to accept and the fact that he has done so will be received with general satisfaction throughout the maritime provinces.

The eastern section of the Dominion has given the country many of her foremost leaders in politics as well as in other fields of activity, and while this section of Canada cannot claim Mr. Mackenzie King as a native, his acceptance of the nomination will give the maritime provinces the unusual honor of being represented by both the premier and the leader of the opposition, as there can be no doubt of Hon. Mr. King's election.

When the opposition leader succeeds to the premiership, as it is reasonable to expect that he will after the next general elections, the east will retain the distinction of being represented in parliament by the prime minister of the Dominion. The maritime provinces will share in the honor and the new leader is assured of a welcome which will leave no doubt regarding his strength in this part of the country when next he journeys eastward.

THEIR WAY AND OURS.

The reputation of German prisoners held in British camps has been begun. The Supreme Council meeting in Paris has passed a resolution stating that in order to diminish as rapidly as possible the sufferings caused by war it has been decided to proceed with the release and return of the prisoners in anticipation of the ratification of the peace treaty. The work will be contingent upon the fulfillment by the German government and people of their obligations, which seems a wise condition in view of dealing in the past with both government and people and breaches of faith previously committed. Those interned in Canada are also being returned.

During the war and after there was much talk concerning the treatment accorded Allied prisoners of war, especially British, by the Germans in their prison camps and frequent contrast has been made as to the manner in which the Allies used those of the enemy. Careful investigation into this matter, and the evidence of men who suffered in the oftentimes filthy dens in which they were kept captive by Germany proved that the reports were based upon truth and anyone who saw some of the men in khaki stumbling along a Belgian road last November after the release of prisoners from the German camps will never forget his own, emaciated appearance, his patched and tattered clothes, his feet blistered and weary from walking, barely covered with the semblance of shoes. Contrasted with this is a Berlin despatch of a few days ago saying that prisoners from the British camp at Calais had arrived at Cologne, well fed and wearing good clothing.

It is a fact that the Allies treated their prisoners leniently and kindly. No cases of ill-treatment, brutality or sufferings have been established against them as has been done with Germany. In fact in England at different times during the war feeling ran very strongly for reprisals in the prison camps there for crimes perpetrated against Britishers in the Hun encampments. But no such action was taken. That was not the British way. It was not cricket.

The Germans kept captive in British camps lived a life of luxury when contrasted with the fate of the unfortunate Britishers in their hands. They were not hard worked, they were well fed, their living accommodations were often better than those of the British Tommy, and while for the most part they were glad to have been captured because of the release from the torments of the line, yet they usually remained sullen and arrogant and continually looking for further favors. With German officer prisoners this was especially true. That was the German way.

In France one of the first sights greeting a new arrival was that of swarms of German prisoners about the base, working on railway beds, coal heaps, and general "fatigue" but with what leisure did they work! One or two Colonial Tommies or Britishers would have done the work of six. They were not forced to move—very often it looked as though they were putting in time and it made the blood of our gallant fellows fairly boil at times when after their

day's "work" they sped past them on the march with surly grin or condescending smirk upon their faces, in a motor lorry throwing its dust upon the weary Tommies trudging along on foot. Well, Mr. Berlin acknowledge that her returned prisoners appear "well fed and well clothed!" The pity is that London cannot say the same.

The United States government campaign has forced prices of food down in Greater New York to a point where it will have to cut its charges for surplus army food to meet the dealers' figures. So much for vigorous action directed with determination to achieve results. In the sugar action taken by the Canadian Board of Commerce, as reported yesterday, and in further decision announced today, people of this country will see hope of some amelioration. The commerce board is to delve into the matter of profits on the necessities of life and then determine rates of profit and fix a date after which excess profits shall be a matter to come under the Combines and Fair Prices Act.

All the surprise and indignation that Vienna can call up over the Austrian peace terms will not avail. The Supreme Council has decided that the treaty shall stand. And that ends the matter. Tears of vexation come too late in the Austrian capital. The reckoning has to be paid and the people might as well settle down to the task.

Confirmation of the reported occupation of Kiev by General Denikin, anti-Bolshevik leader in Southwestern Russia, is received. The fall of this important place is a serious thing for the Reds, whose cause of late has not been prospering.

POLICY OF THE NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Would Persuade Peace Conference That Army of 100,000 is Inadequate to Preserve Order

London, Sept. 5.—Among the immediate important aims of German policy, says a Berlin despatch to the Morning Post, "are:—
First—To persuade the Peace Conference that the army of 100,000 men which Germany was authorized by the peace terms to maintain, is utterly inadequate to preserve order and protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of Germany.

Second—To convince the Peace Conference that Germany is simply unable to furnish the coal which she is required by the peace treaty to deliver to her former enemies.
Third—To secure the return of German prisoners in the hands of the Allied powers.

"Much to the outside world hears of is deliberately intended to further these special aims and should be judged from this standpoint.
"The working classes have overthrown the old militarist regime, but the spirit that animated that regime has not been banished, and the German working classes are preparing for a second revolution, which is to be a real revolution, that will, they hope, crush out utterly the spirit of militarism and also put an end to the ruthless exploitation of workers."

RECENT DEATHS

David Barron.
Newcastle, Sept. 4.—The death of David Barron occurred at his home in Millerton on Tuesday morning. Deceased had been ill for some time; he was aged seventy-three years and is survived by his wife and one son, John, of the Lonsbury Company, Moncton, and three daughters, Mrs. George Furry, of Winnipeg; Mrs. William Collins, of Millerton; three brothers also survive, Geo. of Millerton, and two living in the west. The funeral will be held on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

John Fenelon.
Newcastle, Sept. 3.—The sudden death of John Fenelon took place at his home on Monday. Mr. Fenelon had been about his usual morning work and died soon after dinner. He had reached the age of seventy-four years, and had been a resident of Newcastle for about fifty years, being a native of St. John's (Nfld.). He is survived by his wife, three sons, E. L. and William at home and J. Bertram in the west, and three daughters, Mrs. M. J. Hoban and Mrs. W. C. Hoban of Manitoba, and Mrs. G. J. Davis, Vancouver (B.C.).

Douglas Baird.
Perth, N.B., Sept. 3.—Douglas Baird, a well known resident of Perth (N.B.) died at his home on Friday evening, August 29, at the age of fifty-five years, after an illness of several weeks. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, three brothers, one sister and a large circle of other relatives and friends to whom the news of his death brought deep regret. Mr. Baird has conducted a hardware business in Perth for several years and was also the postmaster, having held office since 1882. The family has the sincere sympathy of all in their bereavement.

Brother of Bonar Law.
A London despatch says: John Law, brother of Andrew Bonar Law, government spokesman in the house of commons, and a son of the Rev. J. A. Law, of New Brunswick, Canada, died at Glasgow, Scotland, Friday. Death was due to congestion of the lungs.

The death of Robert Estey, aged about seventy years, occurred on Wednesday while he was sleeping at his home at Redbank, N. B.

Rippling Rhymes

By Walt Mason
(Copyright by George Matthew Adams.)

GOLD BRICKS.
Some busy fellows in our town are always hauling up and down, intent on boosting things; they want to raise a bunch of kale to put a flagpole on the jail, or build new courthouse wings. They want to paint the country club, or hire some highly gifted dub to beautify the grounds; and so they come to me and say, "We need an act of coin today, so cough up seven pounds." But always I have other use for every cent I can produce, some junk I have to buy; I line up with the easy hicks who blow themselves for gilded bricks, or strips of assure sky. I have a gold mine up in Maine, where any number would be insane who dug around for gold. I have an ice plant on a shore where arctic billows always roar, and its beauty cool. I have a ranch that ought to grow all kinds of grain but moderns know, if it had any soil, I have an oil well on a hill, where high priced workmen drill and drill, and never reach the oil. I'm always buying costly shares that ought to make me millionaires, but never, never do; I'm buying shares in mills and mines, and grizzly bears and pumpkin vines, and remedies for flu. And so I cannot spare a red to help the boosters' fads; assessments always coming due, it seems to me I'm never through with shelling out the seeds.

THE COMING OF AUTUMN.

Now on the distant mountains old and hoar,
"The blooming mists of Autumn lie,"
And slow pulsed billows laid the rugged shore.
While pale mists dim the midday sky.
In glint of sunshine hosts of silvery pearls,
Bright diamonds on each dewy mead,
Where the blue smoke from cottage chimneys curls,
And soft winds waft the thistle seed.
At eve the blackbirds wing their sprightly flight,
From marshy lake and reedy fen;
And briskly hasten from the coming night,
Homeward, to some fair sheltered glen.

Loud cries the chon crow from tree-top high,
The quail pipes in the tasseled corn;
Through purple woods the fragrant breeze sigh,
And whispering greet the rosy morn.
The goldenrod vies with the painted leaf,
To shed o'er earth a lustre bright,
While amber-tinted clouds long shadows weave
Upon the mountain's rugged height.

Gayly the sparkling rills glide swiftly down,
T'ween felled fern and tangled brake,
The nuts upon the trees grow golden brown,
And wild fowl, from the placid lake.

In rustic barn the pullet, perched on high,
Clings closer to the mother hen,
As shadows creep o'er darkening sky,
And night-birds haunt the lonely fen.

Gay-colored leaves carpet the woodland floor,
The nimble squirrel quickly lies
Homeward to where in some tall stately tree,
His winter store all safely lies.

Summer's sweet glories speed swiftly away,
The glories of Autumn appear,
The calm mellowed gleam of beautiful day,
 Ere winter, to comfort and cheer.

—Robert Stark, Toronto.

LIGHTER VEIN

"I thought you said this bathing suit was in fast colors," said a blond indignant to the man who had sold it to him that morning.
"Yes, sir, that's what I said," returned the other.
"Well, every wretched stripe on the thing has come off on my back," retorted Binks.
"Ah, but will you try to get 'em off your back," smiled the shopkeeper. "Then you'll see."

Everybody in the neighborhood knew that Henry was under his wife's thumb, and grieved for him. But he was so meek poor fellow.
One day after the usual daily lecture, beginning with his faults and ending with her virtues, Mrs. Peck wound up with: "And what I'd like to meet the man I was afraid of."
"So should I!" agreed Henry, thoughtlessly. "I'd stand him a drink!"

A man was waiting somewhat impatiently in a postoffice while the young woman clerk discussed a business of importance with one of her admirers. His annoyance being evident in his countenance, she remarked:
"Well, you need not look at me as if I were poison."
"Not so much poison as a counter-irritant," he replied, gravely.

The Prince and New York.

Toronto Globe.—A piquant situation will present itself when New York welcomes the Prince of Wales. Mayor Hylan, who sent a cordially worded invitation to the Prince—which the Prince accepted—has been the nominee of Tammany, and in his election campaign was opposed by all the newspapers of the city excepting those owned by W. R. Hearst. Anglophobe and pro-German. The mayor has been discharging his obligations to Hearst in various ways, and the visit of the Prince has given him another shining opportunity. He has appointed Hearst a member of the silk-hatted main reception committee that will have the duty of welcoming the Prince personally and providing for his entertainment, and he has made Mrs. Hearst the chairman of the women's committee that will look after the social programme.

The majority of the prominent men and women named by the mayor to welcome the Prince are members of a committee to welcome returning American soldiers refused to act because of the inclusion of Hearst, who had opposed the sending of troops to Europe and had persistently stirred up hatred of Great Britain. New Yorkers are agog over the new attempt to project the Hearsts into the limelight, but they will be more concerned than the Prince, who has a pronounced sense of humor. Hearst may continue to spout anti-British venom through his newspapers, but he will not miss the chance of basking in the rays of royalty. People have a handkerchief or infectious smile from the Prince will have a cure.

In any event there need be no anxiety as to the heartiness of the welcome that awaits the Prince in New York or any other part of the United States he may choose to visit. The American people want to see him, and inhospitality is not one of their faults. It may safely be predicted that they will like him and will let him know it.

Active at 131.

The Times the other day had a despatch about John Shell of Greasy Creek, Kentucky, reported to be 131 years old. More detailed despatches say: This man can remember when George Washington was alive; when Napoleon held Europe in his grasp; is of the same generation as the Lincoln, Darwin, Longfellow, Whitman, Edgar Allan Poe. He can remember when wild Indians still roamed the Kentucky hills, and can recall when Daniel Boone was fighting to clear up the "Dark and Bloody Ground."

The National Geographic Society has been asked to investigate and report on Shell's claims of being the oldest person alive in all the world.

Although "Uncle John" believes his age is 116, other old men in the vicinity of the old man, who certainly must be about 180 years. They base their reasons upon the good authority of a tax duplicate signed by John Shell in 1869, when he would have had to be 21 years old in order to have to pay taxes.

The old man is an interesting talker, retaining his mental faculties extremely well, and, as a matter of fact, things that occurred nearly a century ago.

He came to Kentucky from southern Ohio—the Scioto Valley—blazing the trail through the primeval forests, settling in the foothills of the Cumberland in seclusion.

For years, years and years he lived the simple life, interrupted occasionally by the war, when the deer that roamed the mountains at will.

"There were lots of game in those days," said the old man, "and you bet I made the most of it. Why, I've carried in three deer on my back at one hunt; three bears at others. I rarely ever let one escape me—my trusty rifle rarely ever failed me. It is the same to this day."

It was here that Uncle John got off on the neighborhood shooting matches in the Greasy Creek vicinity, still in vogue, and how he would beat the boys and carry away the prizes. It is a fact, he does it.

But with the placidity and activity of 80 at 130, for even at 116, is the most astounding thought of people who think of old Uncle John Shell. Today he is able to do a considerable amount of work—actual labor on his little hillside mountain farm.

And as a pedestrian he is a real marvel. Frequently walking two-five to thirty miles a day over rough mountain roads.

With eyesight the very best, being able to read the smallest of Bible print, he is an extraordinary thing to think of. Uncle John actually spends considerable of his time reading the Book of Books. He is an old-style Baptist, and is a frequent churchgoer.

Rivalry in Navies.

Ottawa Journal.—Some time ago, when President Wilson's "freedom of the seas" idea was being discussed, there was a good deal of talk in the United States about a prospective American navy equal to that of Britain's navy. The United States government embarked on a naval construction program when it was calculated to make the American navy second to none, but dropped it upon the execution of the peace treaty. The American proposition when it was advanced, did not inspire any jealousy on the part of Britishers. No one would have objected to an American navy equal that of the British navy, because it is inconceivable that the two should ever come into conflict.

But it is interesting to note how far go to accomplish its now abandoned purpose. The American Navy Year Book just published supplies the information. It shows, the United States navy to be the second in the world, but at that it is not nearly half the size of the British navy. The British navy has a total of 2,415,992 tons, while the tonnage of the American navy is 931,806. Of battleships, Britain has 52 and the United States 30. Britain has nine battle cruisers and the United States none. The United States has lost thirteen naval vessels and Britain 259.

Efficiency.

Regina Leader.—According to the Minneapolis Journal the United States government spent one billion two hundred million dollars for aviation in the war—and laid down in Europe 213 airplanes. The government spent four billion eight hundred million dollars for the Shipping Board. Yet it had to pay Great Britain handsomely for transporting fifty-four per cent of the American soldiers across the sea. The government spent nearly a billion two hundred million dollars for artillery. Yet only seventy-two American-made guns were delivered to the firing line and 406 floated for France. For a nation of business efficiency experts, said the Journal, we didn't organize our war-making very well, did we?

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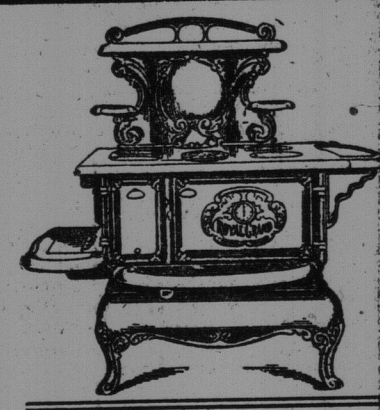
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A Britisher.

(Toronto Times.)

What does it mean to be a Britisher, as the Prince understands it? No more and no less than to be decent and "white" in the world of men, to be a devotee of the square deal, to be fine in thought and in act, to "play the game" according to the rules, to be a despiser of guile and cant and lies, and to follow duty to the world's end. That is the spirit of the best English public schools, of the British army, and the royal navy. It is the spirit of the royal family of Windsor, and the Prince is the product of that splendid tradition. He came to Toronto an unknown boy, with nothing but his position to recommend him. He leaves behind him a crowd of ardent personal friends, and a city full of admirers.

No Titles This Time.

(Hamilton Times.)

Think what a lot of Canadian titles might have been got out of the Prince's visit had it not been for the interference of Parliament.

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Divorce.

Edmonton Journal.—Twenty-four applications for divorce are now pending in the Supreme Court in Edmonton. Of these, fifteen have been brought by husbands and the remaining nine by wives. It is idle to do more than speculate just now on the influence of this newly found jurisdiction, but that its effect will be far-reaching cannot be doubted. It is axiomatic that the marital relationship lies at the basis of all civilized institutions, and it must be clear that the constitution of a democratic state could not survive a general dissolution of this most fundamental of human relationships. Thus it is but reasonable to presume that any enactment or power touching this relationship will have an extensive effect on the very fibre of the state.



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