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ADVERTISERS, NOTE.

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London, Ont., Tuesday, August 9.

MR. MEIGHEN'S TRIPLE ROLE.

The Hon. Arthur Meighen made his debut on his
return to the stage of Canadian politics in the triple
role of optimist, prophet and apologist. As an
optimist Mr. Meighen is not at all convincing. He
lacks that power of carrying his audience with him,
which is the natural heritage of great actors. Fresh
from the invigorating atmosphere of the Imperial
Conference, we expected something better from the
Premier of Canada than the mere expression of opinion
that "those who lament about Canada have not seen
much of other countries in these times."

It is small consolation when a man has got a
black eye to tell him that some other fellow has got
two. What other countries does Mr. Meighen mean?
Does he refer to ravaged Belgium or desolated France?
Does he imply that Great Britain is still wailing
under her wounds, without hope of recovery? The
latest news from that quarter is that Britain is bravely
facing her responsibilities and is slowly getting on
her feet again. But if the premier alludes to ragged
Serbia or starving Russia, grammar for his com-
panion.

Canada, too, has had her wounds and her scars,
but she takes her stand in the world not as a nation
that has been weakened by misfortune, but as one
that has been made stronger by her sacrifices. She
only awaits someone to lead her back to the prom-
ised land of prosperity, and Mr. Meighen knows in
his heart of hearts that he will never be that one.

Nevertheless he calmly usurps the mantle of Moses,
and in the character of a prophet assures the people
of Halifax that in "ten years from now this country
will be the envy of the world." Why in ten years?
Does he expect that the hash of which he has con-
ducted his cabinet pudding at Ottawa will be palatable
to the people of Canada all that time? It is already
mouldy, stale, evil-smelling and repulsive to the ap-
petite, and the people are sick of it.

This is why Mr. Meighen has assumed the third
character in his triple role, that of an apologist. He
pathetically exclaims: "Let us take courage, and let
every class be reasonable, and there will soon be work
for everybody who is willing to work." Mr. Meighen
need have no qualms on this score; the people are
courageous enough and reasonable enough, but they
are not given the opportunity of exercising those
virtues as they would like for the country's good. In
their present anxiety to get things going and to
sweep away the cobwebs that clog the wheels of
progress, it is to them small consolation for the pre-
mier to come back from his protracted sojourn beyond
the seas with the declaration that ten years hence
there is a good time coming. The country is looking
for something more tangible than this and means to
have it without having to wait a whole decade.

A TWENTIETH CENTURY EYMERIC.

Nicholas Eymeric was an inquisitor in Aragon in
the latter half of the fourteenth century, a seeker out
of heresies, indefatigable in his labors and filled
with a burning zeal to preserve all that had been
handed down from the past. His compendious work,
bearing the imposing title, "Directorium Inquisi-
torum," was probably the most authoritative of all
inquisitorial treatises, being a complete exposition
of the principles of the tribunal, and more particu-
larly a setting forth of the doctrines of all the
different sects with which it had to deal. Master
Nicholas Eymeric had them all on his list, all tagged
and identified so that his duller associates would be
able to spot a heretic anywhere and at any time.

Nicholas Eymeric has a successor. His name is
Lusk, and he is a member of the Senate of the
State of New York. He is the arch-inquisitor of
the United States in respect to economic heresies,
and he has published at the expense of the state
a four-volume report, many thousand pages in all,
in which he has listed everybody who in any pos-
sible way might be suspected of even the slightest
unsoundness with regard to the existing conditions.
Lusk has them all, college professors, ministers, social
reformers, I. W. W. agitators, socialists, parlor Bol-
shevists, real Bolsheviks, anarchists, humanitarians,
he's got them on the list, and in his opinion "they
never would be missed." Old Nicholas Eymeric has
nothing on Mr. Lusk as a cataloguer of deadly sins.

The chief trouble with New York's arch-inquisitor
is that he was more anxious to issue his report than
to be sure of his facts. Consequently he charged
his bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, among
others, with "socialistic tendencies," and they are at
present putting the senator in his place with some
logic. Then it developed that this arch-patriot, this
one per cent American, had recently accepted a gift
of a silver service from a certain element who
opposed financially by legislation that he pressed
through, and the Republicans at Albany are now
plotting to depose him as Senate leader.

Our friend Uncle Sam, since he entered the war
in 1917, has been undergoing a period of reaction in
which he has been standing up so straight that the
sun from his heels has been striking on the back of
his head. It has been a perfect heyday for the Lusks
of their kind, who, giving themselves out to be
creditors of dangerous agitators, have been
taking advantage of their powers and opportunities to

defame and malign everyone who did not hold opinions
exactly the same as their own.

A noted English publicist, who visited the United
States recently, said that there was less real freedom
in the United States than in any continental country
that he had recently visited. Daily life was bound
about by petty restrictions, and there seemed to be
widespread fear of allowing free speech or a free
press. What he actually witnessed was the bad
outbreak of Luskism that is now abroad in the land.
The most hopeful thing to say is that the disease is its
own cure.

The Lusk report is being ridiculed right and
left, not alone by the more liberal journals, but by
the more conservative press as well, which is find-
ing plenty of evidence that statements and docu-
ments have been tampered with to make out a case for
the inquisitors. Hearsay evidence of all kinds, much
of it of the most nonsensical character, is strung
out page after page until the very bulk of the report
is probably defeating its objects, since neither the
reactionaries nor the people who are attacked will
ever read it. However, Mr. Lusk, in his retirement,
may set the four bulky volumes beside the silver tea
service and "call it a day."

WHERE TOWN AND COUNTRY MEET.

Although there were no other signs visible, those
crisp, still evenings and the tinges of gold and the
slight blushes of red that are warming up the maple
trees, indicate that the time of the Western Fair
draws near. Someone has said that when the time
does come that all roads will lead to the Queen's Park,
where the great exhibition is held. This is in the
main perfectly true, for the Western Fair is un-
doubtedly the rallying point for the people both of
town and country. In other words, it is the hub of
the wheel which keeps in motion both urban and rural
activities, and it would be a bad day for the com-
bined community if that wheel ceased to revolve with
all its accustomed freedom.

Latterly there has been a get-together movement
between the city and the country, and there is no
better objective for those who have this movement
at heart than the exhibition, which includes within its
scope so many things in which both communities are
vitaly interested. It is a powerful medium for the
fusing of the urban and the rural elements, a point
at which the two are welded together by their common
interests and sympathies. In this way the fair be-
comes the most powerful instrument in furthering
the objects which the promoters of the get-together
movement have in view, namely, a better understand-
ing between the town and the country, so that the two
may enter into hearty co-operation in building up not
only the province, but the Dominion as a whole.

For these reasons it is the duty of every man,
woman and child in Western Ontario to support the
Western Fair with all their might, not only by attend-
ing it, but by being as far as possible exhibitors as
well. Nothing is more conducive to the generation
of a real live interest in the exhibition than for each
one to try as far as possible to become an exhibitor
of some of the products of the farm, the factory,
the garden or the studio. It is the aim of the direc-
tors to arouse the interest of all concerned in these
activities, and it is up to the public to encourage this
aim to the full extent of its ability. The Western Fair
is not alone a place where many a pleasant hour may
be spent, but it is a rendezvous where much may
be learned, and where a large amount of permanent
good may be accomplished. It is therefore the duty
of everyone to give it a boost on every possible oppor-
tunity, remembering that in doing so they are active
units in the common task of attaining a worthy object.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The only bores that are welcome are those that
strike oil.

High constables' salaries are apparently not of the
same altitude as their titles.

A young man with literary aspirations says that
he can write like the Dickens.

It is said that there will be no Yapping at the
forthcoming conference at Washington.

It would seem that although the county constables
are employed on peace work they are not always on
the job.

Horseless carriages are not the latest thing.
Driverless autos are. The first one has been seen in
the streets of Dayton, Ohio.

Since the armistice the British navy has scrapped
over 530 obsolete ships. The navy also did a good
deal of scrapping during the war.

Lianstrumdw—No, gentle reader, this is not a
typographical horror; it is merely the name of the place
where Lloyd George went to school.

A party of immigrants representing six countries
arrived in Toronto. As representatives of the League
of Nations it was appropriate that they should meet at
the Union Station.

The lurid type of literature is the favorite reading
of penitentiary prisoners in New York. Probably,
however, this kind of reading was the causes of their
being in prison, not the effect.

Strike action has received the approval of the
teachers' convention at Toronto, but this sort of
action has been condemned by thousands of pupils,
who for centuries have had an aversion to the brand
of cane.

It is said that the "Wets" are getting back at the
London Methodists on account of their zeal on behalf
of prohibition, and although the results have been so
far striking and full of fire, they are not inspiring.
The Methodist have still many towers of strength.

THE ALARM IN CANADA.

[Waterbury American.]

The Rev. Canon Scott, a prominent Quebec citizen, gives
Canada the alarm over the sign of the disposition in the
United States to grasp Canada in its power by taking
possession of the St. Lawrence River. He imagines a time
in the future when Canada might be at war and the United
States a neutral, and would resist the Canadian necessity
of closing the river by mines. "The St. Lawrence is a
great Canadian asset," he said, "and must be wholly under
our control. It is the very spinal marrow of Canada. The
internationalizing of the St. Lawrence would cut us off both
really and sentimentally from the lower provinces. Would
the Americans consent to the internationalization of the
Panama Canal or the Mississippi? Our great rivers must
be ours, and ours alone." This sounds a little like hysteria,
and not unlike things we used to hear when reciprocity was
an issue. Canon Scott's outgiving will astonish a great
many Americans who looked on this matter as a business
proposition, and hadn't realized its political possibilities.

LETTERS

FIGURES ON THE GAS SITUATION.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:
The following figures may assist our
fellow-citizens who are interested in
the gas situation to form their own
opinions, viz.:

1. 500,000 cubic feet per day, delivered
at the city limits at 1 cent per 1,000
cubic feet, will yield a revenue of \$5.

2. \$5 per day, for one year of 365 days,
will yield a revenue of \$1,825.

3. 500,000 cubic feet of natural gas,
delivered daily at the city limits at
10 cents per 1,000 cubic feet will yield
a revenue annually of \$18,250.

4. \$6,000 revenue will pay the dividend
on a cash investment of \$100,000 at 6
per cent.

5. \$15,000 revenue will pay the divi-
dend on a cash investment of \$100,000
at 15 per cent.

Any person can go and examine the
equipment of the three gas wells on the
Saul farm at Cumlin, which is not four
miles from the city limits, and can
estimate the cost of laying a 6-inch
pipe line to the city limits, added to
the cash cost of drilling and equipping
the three wells estimated to yield 500,000
cubic feet per day.

Do you think I would run above \$50,000 for the total
cash investment?

Person employed to manufacture
this gas and the materials are pur-
chased to produce it. It is nature's gift.
Who is entitled to its benefits, above
return on capital?

Now take a look at the revenue for
distribution after the supply is received
at the city limits:

1. 500,000 cubic feet per day at 20
cents per 1,000 cubic feet, will yield an
annual revenue of \$36,500 for distribu-
tion.

2. If the City Gas Company gets natu-
ral gas (free) to mix automatically
with its own product, and distributes an
average of 1,000,000 cubic feet per day
at a charge of 35 cents per 1,000 cubic
feet for distribution only, that distribu-
tion revenue will yield the City Gas
Company over and above its manufac-
turing costs an annual return of \$12,500.

3. At \$1.25 per 1,000 cubic feet, with
an average consumption of 1,000,000
cubic feet daily, the potential revenue of
any gas company is (today) at the rate
of \$125,000 for gas only, without the
value of the by-products considered,
and gas meter monthly rentals to be added.

The indications are that 20 cents at
the city limits for natural gas will yield
an enormous return on the cash in-
vestment. HENRY B. ASHLANT.

N. B.—The suggested Assembly revenue
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Baltimore but elsewhere, it will be well
for the profession.

If people must go to hospitals and
perhaps die there, they should at
least have the consolation of knowing
beforehand that the high cost of dying
is keeping step with the declining high
cost of living.

WELL PRESERVED.

[Philadelphia Ledger.]

An earnest young man from a college
settlement was addressing a company
of fathers and mothers in the slums of
Chicago on the subject of "Christmas in
the Home," telling them of the ways in
which the day might be made bright
although money was not plentiful. He
had visited many houses in many cities
and was well informed.

"I'm not talking about what other
people have told me," he said gen-
erally; "it's what I know from my per-
sonal experience. I have seen over a
hundred Christmas celebrations and—"
"Me dear young man," came in a rich
Irish-American voice from the rear of
the room, "it's wonderfully preserved
ye are for a man that old."

IRREPARABLE LOSSES.

[Halifax Chronicle.]

If Germany has not already realized
that her plunging the world into the
horrors of war was not only a damnable
crime against humanity, but a losing
proposition for herself, the publication
of her war losses ought to open her
eyes on the subject of her position
in her population. France suffered more
severely than Germany, the latter's
casualty lists run to totals well-nigh
staggering. The German dead alone
numbered 1,792,368, according to the
revised compilations. The wounded
numbered 4,246,874, and in addition some
200,000 men are still carried on the
rolls as missing. These are irreparable
losses.

POETRY AND JEST

THE MAGICIAN.

[Life.]

Life has subtle way
Of forming roses out of clay;

Of taking tears that seemed in vain
And making of them April rain;

Of getting from a heedless rafter
Echoes of dead bits of laughter;

Of wedding in a sunset sea
Lost loveliness and imagery;

Of making out of crawling things
Butterflies with airy wings;

Life has such a subtle way
Of turning darkness into day;

Of bringing music, ocean-odds
To newness of a tale untold;

And then grown jealous of its trust
Of changing roses back to dust.

VERY NEW.

[Louisville Courier-Journal.]

"I want some desk stockings,"
"Desk stockings?"

"Yes, roll-tops."

BRICK-DUST.

[Louisia Brooke.]

It's just a heap of ruin.
A drunken brick carouse—
The thing my spirit grew in
That once was called a house.

An attic where I scribbled
Through making summer days,
While street-planes nibbled
At the patient Marcellaise.

The spider-landlord squatted
In a web of dinner-smells,
And people slowly rotted
In little gossip-hells.

I hated all I learned there—
And yet I could have cried—
For the little oil I burned there,
A little dream that died.

A CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE.

[Cleveland News.]

It is possible to kiss a girl while
driving an automobile, but it takes a
whole lot of co-operation.

SONNET.

[G. Gould, in Living Age.]

The creeping hours have caught us un-
aware,
And while we yet stand breathless
from the thrill
Of the warm noon, the twilight wide
and chill
Has stolen the color from the golden
day.

The dead and equal light of evening
bares
The world of shade ere shade shall
have its fill,
And the huge gleams on river, fold
and hill
Are lost and lonely as unanswered