

THE NAVY ALL RIGHT.

Shorter Hours, Better Wages and
Lower Prices for Worker.

Mr. Asquith and Lloyd-George
Making Many Speeches.

Rosebery Wants to Know What Mr.
Balfour Has to Offer.

London, Dec. 21.—Mr. Asquith spoke four times and Mr. Lloyd-George five to-day. Other Cabinet Ministers are also on the stump, while ex-Ministers and lesser stars orated everywhere. The Premier at Liverpool made a strong pronouncement on the efficiency of the navy. He said Lord Cawdor's picture of Belfast as a German naval base showed the unwisdom of letting loose a band of Peers and proconsuls who had been making the political walk in ring. Respecting fiscal matters, he claimed that Britain had shorter hours of labor, higher wages, and lower prices for the real necessities, and on the whole a smaller burden of unemployment than any protectionist country. The exportation of capital was one of the surest indications of the prosperity and productiveness of British industry. Upon the constitutional issue Mr. Asquith was sarcastic. Really, he said, they had better close the House of Commons altogether. (Laughter.) What need was there for it? What need, when by the mercy of Providence—(Laughter)—at the other end of the Palace of Westminster there were Curzon and his friends free from the dangers and temptations of popular elections—(laughter)—interpreting with disinterested detachment, the true mind and permanent temper of the people. (Great laughter and cheers.) The Premier declared the sky to be full of good omens.

Mr. Asquith also said that if colonial preference were only to apply to food and raw materials, it would be a great advantage to the Empire. Was South Africa to receive no preference whilst Canada and Australia did? Was that to weld the bonds of Empire?

THE HOUSE OF PEERS.
London, Dec. 21.—Mr. Lloyd-George at enthusiastic meetings at Cardiff and Swansea today again charmed the Lords. "We are sick of this gathering of Liberal bills. I am very glad the Premier has said 'Never again.' Respecting the alleged scares, he stated: 'It is not the House of Peers, but the House of Fears. They are not there to protect honesty and industry against confiscation. They are there to defend monopoly, which plunders industry. They are not there as the guardians of liberty. They are there as the guardians of privilege. We have found them out, and Britain will strip them of their pretensions.' (Cheers.) He could hear nothing but the ring of victory from one end of the country to the other.

The Earl of Curzon was so repeatedly interrupted at a meeting at Rochdale that he had to appeal for fair play. He asked that the coming fight should be clean. He regretted that they had not got a clear issue, fearing that the combination and confusion of issues might land the country in trouble, which would be dangerous to the Empire.

Lord Curzon was enthusiastically received at Burnley, where he replied to Mr. Winston Churchill.

Walter Long, in Wiltshire, said that tariff reform would produce £180,000,000 annually. Give Ireland Home Rule, and we should require to conquer it within 20 years.

Mr. Runciman, of Bradford, said that if a foreign fleet went to Belfast, otherwise than on a visit of courtesy, they would be prizes, flying the British flag.

Sir A. Spicer, President of the London Chamber of Commerce, said: "The Australians are willing as a nation to give us a small preference, but not as individuals. They want to buy that which suits them at the lowest price. We forget the effects of our running down of our commercial position. We must find some way of preventing strong statements as regards British decadence from getting out to the dominions. Personally, I do not believe them." He also urged cheaper cable rates.

London, Dec. 21.—(Globe cable)—The recentities of some of the Peers—who are popularly referred to among the Liberals as "the wild Peers"—now on the stump all over the United Kingdom, and the attitude of the public, who are beginning to regard "the Lords' meetings" as substitutes for vaudeville performances, have forced the leading Peers to urge the reform of the Upper House.

Lord Rosebery, in a letter, which has been made public, asks Mr. Balfour what reform of the Lords he proposes in the place of Mr. Asquith's scheme for making the House of Lords a "plant phantom." This communication is regarded as almost as bad a blow for the Unionists as was Rosebery's speech in the House of Lords against the rejection of the Budget.

Lord St. Aldwyn, who, as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1895 to 1902, fought the protectionists in the Conservative party, says to-day that the Lords should have no right to reject money bills such as this year's Budget.

Lord Dunmore, also a Conservative, favors an elective second Chamber, with the Bishops remaining in it, but reinforced by the chiefs of the other Churches. This is evidently a direct result of Lloyd-George's statement made at the recent remarkable meeting of the men of the Free Churches, that there were only two or three Nonconformists in the House of Lords.

All these proposals tend to make material for warm debates, and to throw the discussion on tariff reform into the background.

A FRIGHTFUL FIRE

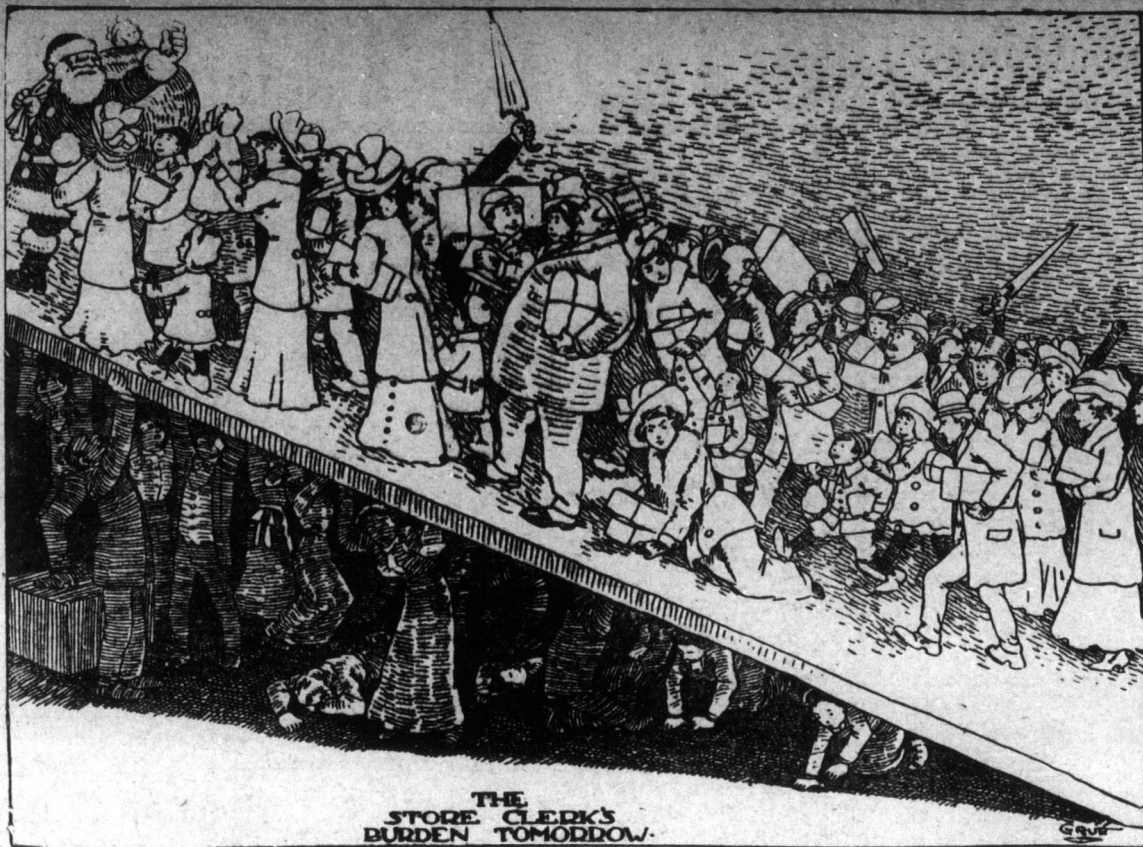
Causes widespread sorrow—likewise a live corn causes much pain—the cure is "Putnam's" the old reliable Putnam's Corn Extractor, that never fails and always cures; try it.

CIVIL SERVICE.

The following civil service results Hamilton are announced:

Preliminary—R. Avis, L. Barlow, L. J. Enright, J. J. Keenan, D. P. Martin, R. M. Martin, W. Matthes, R. F. Nash, G. M. Reid, J. J. Robertson, W. J. Way, W. Wheeler.

Qualifying—W. F. Clancy, J. H. Finnigan, G. B. Hayes, A. P. Savage, Lewis Wright, W. S. Savage, P. H. Oliver.



MUNICIPAL LOVE FEAST.

Board of Works Members Wind
Up the Year

As Guests of the Chairman at
Commercial Club.

Enforcing of Snow By-law in
Annex Discussed.

The final session of this year's Board of Works last night afforded an opportunity for the exchanging of verbal bouquets. Chairman Allan was showered with congratulations by his colleagues on the amount of work done, and the excellent financial showing. He in turn declared that a great deal of the credit was due to the Secretary W. C. Brennan. After the business was cleaned up, Ald. Allan entertained the committee, and officials, of his department, to dinner at the Commercial Club.

The financial showing was particularly satisfactory, showing a surplus of \$5,727. There was a surplus of \$3,769 out of the Board of Works appropriation of \$22,547; \$1,402 left from the street lighting appropriation of \$37,653 and \$555 from the street watering appropriation of \$18,713.

A statement was also presented showing how the \$125,000 appropriation for the permanent road work on James and Barton streets was spent. There is a surplus of \$15,603, after setting aside \$21,840 for completing the Herkimer street work.

Plans for building a bridge over the Lottridge Inlet to open the base line through, were approved of and the work will be done by the city. The estimated cost is \$2,000.

The matter of enforcing the snow cleaning by-law in the newly annexed district will be left over for next year's Board of Control. It was pointed out that miles of sidewalks are laid in the annex that are seldom used in winter, and it was thought it might entail a hardship if the city cleaned these off and charged the cost up to the property, as it has power to do.

Chairman Allan and Ald. Robson will try and make terms with John Patterson, promoter of the Hamilton, Waterloo & Guelph Railway for the sale of the city gravel pit near the High Level bridge. The pit was purchased by the city to protect the road. Mr. Patterson wants it as part of the railway right-of-way.

M. S. Kappelle was awarded the contract for supplying 40,000 feet of timber for re-decking the Stewart bridge. His tender was \$978.96.

H. H. STRATHY'S WILL.

The will of the late Henry H. Strathy, K. C., of Barrie, disposes of an estate of about \$400,000. The bequests include Barrie Hospital, \$1,000; the Ardagh Memorial Home, Barrie, \$200; Dr. Grenfell's Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, \$100; Free Hospital for Consumptives at Gravenhurst, \$100; Dr. Barnardo's work amongst children, \$100.



A TIME-SAVING DEVICE.

"Speaking of modern conveniences, Bilkins, I've got it fixed at my house so I can hear lectures without leaving my bed."

"Who gives the lectures?"

"My wife."

THE SILENT ADMIRAL.

Sir John Fisher and His Successor
Admiral Wilson.

(By One Who Knows Him, in London Observer.)

The first thought of everyone familiar with naval questions and Service thought, on reading the report that Admiral of the Fleet Sir Arthur Knyvet Wilson, V.C., will be Sir John Fisher's successor as First Sea Lord, was "If it is not true it ought to be." A great many people have thought so for a long time past; and, if they have not said so, it was mainly from the belief that wild horses would not avail to drag Sir Arthur Whitehall. What consideration or what influence, has availed to overcome his reluctance—if it has been overcome—can only guess; and, perhaps, we shall guess badly if we try. It will be well to wait official confirmation of the report accepting it for gospel.

Not for the first time will Sir Arthur Wilson be Eliza to Sir John Fisher's Elijah. He succeeded the latter as Controller of the Navy in 1897, when Sir John left the Admiralty to hoist his flag as Commander-in-Chief on the North American Station. He remained in office till 1901, when he went afloat in command of the Channel Fleet, hoisting his flag for the first time as a Vice-Admiral. There is something beyond chance in the fact that he should thus apparently be twice marked out to succeed Sir John Fisher in office, and, should the appointment be actually made, the fact must be borne in mind as an indication of the trend of Admiralty policy in the future. If his attitude towards the proposal that he should go to the Admiralty is quite probably that of Anselm towards the King's command that he should succeed Lafranc as Archbishop, it is quite certain that a First Sea Lord, with a zeal for reaction is likely to find "Tug" Wilson no more of an "old sheep" than the Red King found the Abbot of Bec.

MASTER OF STRATEGY.

From the time he hoisted his flag in command of the Channel Fleet to the time he hoisted it down for the last time in 1907 it was continually Sir Arthur Wilson's duty to perfect new organizations of the Fleet. He took command of the original Home Fleet when it was formed out of the port and coastguard ships, derisively known as "gobbies"; he went back to the command of the Channel when it became the main defending force of these islands, and in that capacity was Admiralissimo of all the organized squadrons on home service. By common consent he is the greatest living master of sea strategy and tactics, and this is of no small consequence at a time when it is constantly alleged that there is no proper department of strategy at Whitehall. No one can say that the right man is not in the right place when the first strategist of the Navy is First Sea Lord.

When Sir Arthur took over the Channel Fleet in 1901, he was not generally credited with the possession of great strategic or tactical equipment. He was known for a feat of berserk valour in the broken square at Tamai. An eye-witness thus described it: "I saw Wilson, with his usual smile, knocking over the Fuzies with his fists, enjoying himself in his quiet way." Another opinion prevailed after his first manoeuvres, in which, with a fleet inferior in numbers by four battleships, but more homogeneous and faster, he danced round Sir Gerard Noel. It was Tashima fought four years earlier, and Sir Arthur Wilson may fairly be called Admiral Togo's "Sea-daddy." The tactics of the Battle of the Lizard gave the coup de grace to the Lissa legend of fighting in line-abreast and awaiting an opportunity to ram. Two years later the conditions were reversed. Wilson had the larger but slower and more heterogeneous fleet, and he then gave Admiral Dornville a lesson in how the best workmen makes use of inferior tools. When, in the spring of this year, he was appointed an additional member of the Defence Committee, his right to be there was so obvious that the public only wondered that his appointment had never been the gift of before.

PEACE FOR THE NAVY.

The typical "strong, silent man in a blatan land," Sir Arthur Wilson, if he goes to Whitehall, is destined to give the Navy peace. No doubt a great part of the unrest of the past few years has been inseparable from a period of necessary change, though it has been aggravated in a wholly unjustifiable way. It will be Sir Arthur's task to found the "Still" sea. He initiates nothing fresh, he will consolidate the great work of his predecessor, and he will make the heavy hand of discipline felt throughout the service. Recollecting more recent valuations, it is instructive to recall that when Admiral Wilson hauled down his flag after six years' sea service, he made a signal to his fleet to the effect that discipline would be best maintained if there were no demonstration when he quitted his flagship. That spirit will be maintained, I fancy, if he be back in the service he he whom he may.

He is sixty-eight, but a man of abounding vigor, absolutely fearless of responsibility, chary of praise, but never known to lose his temper; tireless in work; a man difficult to know, but never less than a man of the affection as well as the respect of his subordinates. In his Post-captain days he was called "Old 'art' by the bluejackets; but no one really supposed his heart was hard. Once it was reported that he was going to be married. "E married," said a seaman, "e'd a sight sooner 'ug a torpedo." Sometimes, it is said, he has carried his gift of silence to excess. It is reported—but it may be only one of those names which embody a general truth—that his second-in-command was once heard to say to a midshipman: "You have just come from the flag-ship; do you know when the fleet is to go to sea?" So little is he wont to confide his intentions even to those nearest to him in command that his second-in-command, who whose mission it will perhaps be to restore to the senior service the title of "The Silent Navy."

PRINCE RUPERT LAUNCHED.

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is in receipt of a cable message announcing the successful launching yesterday at Wallsend-on-Tyne, England, of the steamship Prince Rupert, the first of the Grand Trunk Pacific steamers at present under construction for service on the Pacific coast between Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Victoria, and other Puget Sound ports. Upon the completion of the steamer within the next sixty days she will be sent via Cape Horn to the Pacific coast, and will go into commission next season. The companion ship, Prince George, is also under construction, and will be sent to the coast as soon as completed. These fine steamships will inaugurate the commencement of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in the coast trade of the Pacific, are being constructed on the most modern designs and will be models of comfort in every particular.

Artful Legal Tactics.

Lord Chancellor Erskine, with all his arts and all his intrepidity in the face of Judge or jury, was easily upset by anything which touched his amour propre. Vanity was his foible, and he had all the susceptibility which attaches to it. One artful attorney, knowing this, used to plant a man in court, in full view of Erskine to yawn hideously at his most eloquent appeals or to titter at his most tragic tones.

Once when Garrow, the well known counsel, lost in thought, had fixed his eyes vacantly upon him, Erskine was so put out that he stooped down and hissed in his ear: "Who the devil do you think can get on with that wet blanket of a face of yours before him?" The same sensitiveness of criticism followed him into the House of Commons.—From the Law Times.

NORTHWEST GRAIN.

Big Shipment Received by Wood
Milling Company.

The Wood Milling Company, of this city, has just received direct from Fort William and Port Arthur one of the largest shipments of wheat and oats that has come to Hamilton in many a day for a single firm. The consignment consists of close on to one hundred thousand bushels of grain, the finest grown in the Canadian west. The wheat is an excellent sample of this year's wonderful Manitoba yield and it will be used in the manufacture of Gold medal flour. The oats are also first quality goods and weigh forty-three pounds to the bushel. They are large and full and will illustrate what the western soil is capable of growing. The Wood firm had the shipment made by water freight effected quite a saving in freight rates. The steamer Plummer handled the cargo with good satisfaction. Mr. Wood would be pleased to show anyone interested these excellent samples of wheat and oats.

GUARDING SACRED MONKEYS.

Hindu Fakir Who Lives in Comfort
on a Hilltop With His Charges.

In the very top of Jakko, the hill that rises above Simla, there lives a solitary Hindu fakir, an old man clothed in yellow, with saffron plastered cheeks and caste marks on his forehead. He's the guardian priest of the sacred monkeys. Like the inhabitants of ancient Egypt, who worshipped cats and crocodiles, the Hindus of to-day hold many animals in superstitious reverence. Indeed, the Hindu of to-day is even more fanatical than formerly, and resents more passionately the smallest injury or insult offered to the creatures he worships. Among this hierarchy of animals the monkey holds a place of honor second only to the cow; for in the Ramayana, the sacred epic of the Hindus, it is written how Hanuman, the monkey god, allied himself with Vishnu the Preserver, helping him to overcome his enemies and recover his lost wife Sita.

So the monkey, especially the common red monkey, says the Wide World Magazine, is worshipped throughout the length and breadth of India. His images in grass are sold in every bazaar, and many shrines are dedicated to his worship.

People say that there has always been a fakir on Jakko, and it is possible that one has lived there ever since the hill-trees were admitted within the very elastic limits of the Hindu religion. Priest has succeeded priest, living alone on the mountain top, and sharing with his little red gods the food which pious worshippers provided.

In former times there must have been little enough for either gods or priest, for the hill folk in the villages around live poorly even when the season is good, and nearly starve when there is famine. But now he lives in comfort. Not only has the number of Hindu merchants in the bazaar increased but many English visitors come to see the charges and give him money when they leave.

Age of Beer.

A member of Parliament once introduced a measure framed to insure the purity of malt liquor with the remark: "The origin of beer is lost in antiquity." The author of inn, ales and drinking customs of old England has at least traced the beverage upon the evidence of frescoes, back to the Egypt of 5000 years ago. A thousand years later, Mr. Hackwood tells us, "the Egyptian reformer was demanding a reduction in the number of ale houses then existing in the land," notably in the university city of Pelusium. England has drunk beer for 1000 years, at least. An interesting account is given in this learned book of Saxon mead and the ale of the Norse Valhalla. "Ale," it seems, is the Scandinavian for the drink, "beer," the Teutonic; but nowadays, in the British Isles, the terms are popularly interchangeable.

A man is in a bad way when his appetite gets the better of his stomach.

Oh, Mama!

—Don't forget to lay in a stock of CASCARETS with your Xmas purchases. It is the world's best candy medicine for little folks and big folks during Xmas week. CASCARETS will keep the tots well and happy—don't overlook the grownups. They are all bound to overeat and stuff—so be ready with a Cascaret at bed time. Buy a life box CASCARETS—week's treatment—keep it handy to use every night. Xmas week.

To All and Singular to whom these presents shall come Greeting

Whereas in times of yore it has been the custom in sundry places, and in divers manners, at this Festive Season for all good people to send felicitations and good wishes to their best and dearest friends and acquaintances.

Now, therefore, know ye that the good things said and done in the Olden Tyme be not forgotten and fall into desuetude to the detriment of the good feeling holding between friends,

And whereas, it is good and profitable to the soul's health to interchange sentiments of good will, particularly at this time, and especially towards those for whom a sincere regard is entertained,

And whereas, it is desirable that this commendable custom should be maintained,

We hereby in all good faith and honesty send these presents—Wishing all of our friends Good Health, Happiness and all the Compliments of this Joyful Season, with the Loyal and Pervent Hope for a Bright, Prosperous and Happy New Year, aided by the still further use and enjoyment of Delicious "Salada" Tea.

As Witness Our Hand and Seal this Twenty-Fourth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine.

Signed

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Suspension Bridge of Roots.

The natives of the more uncivilized regions of the globe display considerable ingenuity in making use of such things as are to be found in the immediate neighborhood of their homes. A remarkable suspension bridge spans the River Rumaee, in Central Peru, says the Wide World Magazine. The "ropes" of this bridge are composed of pliable roots and vines, while the "planks" are made of branches! In the humid climate of Peru it would be by no means extraordinary if this "vegetable bridge" were to take into its head one day to start growing!

Stranger—"Boy, will you direct me to the Bank of England?" Urchin—"I'll for a shilling." Stranger—"Isn't that too much?" Urchin—"Bank directors always get big pay."—Comic Cuts.

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