

THE OLD COUNTRY COLUMN

Doings and Happenings At Home

(By "Devonian")

Working of the Insurance Act—Huge Benefit Fund

Mr. Masterman, M.P. Financial Secretary to the Treasury, speaking in London, stated there was not one solitary example of the big employers of the country who had endeavored to get out of the obligations imposed upon them by the National Insurance Act. He stated that resistance had been left to a few individuals who employed a few domestic servants and a few farmers, who did not so much not love insurance as the chancellor of the exchequer.

Over \$1,000,000 was being paid every week into the National Fund apart from the Government contribution, and over \$5,000,000 (sixty-five million dollars) had been banked to its credit and was earning interest for it. He estimated, taking an average, that 2,000 persons a week would be legitimately receiving, without malingering, sickness benefit to the extent of 10s. 6d. a week, and at a moderate estimate every week over half a million people would receive medical attendance, many of whom never received adequate attendance before. In a normal week over 18,000 persons would receive maternity benefit, at a cost to the approved societies of 15s. 0d. a week, thus giving a better start to the new generation than had ever been possible before.

Beyond that, reserves were accumulating to pay for permanent disablement, for administration, and for sanatorium benefit being received at that moment by over 10,000 persons, nearly 700 being in institutions, and of whom four-fifths would never have received any treatment to restore them to health but for the operations of the Act.

The campaign introduced through the Insurance Committee into the conditions that made for the prevalence of disease—such as bad housing and overcrowding—would develop into something beyond the dreams of every social reformer.

The Rush to Canada

The Daily Mail states "A time of good trade is always a good time for emigration. There are large numbers of young and strong people longing to go to the Dominions, but never able at ordinary times to save the money. They cannot borrow of their friends who are as poor as themselves, but when good trade comes along they can save enough to go. This applies specially to workers in towns, but the marked feature of the emigration this year is the large proportion of men from the country districts who are leaving England."

"Multitudes of small farmers have been ruined by the two bad seasons, 1911 was too dry and 1912 was too wet. These men have been sold up or had to quit, and not wanting to become homeless those who can afford it are making their way to Canada and Australia, and are just the kind of men wanted there."

Another reason why increasing numbers of people are going this year, says the Daily Mail, is that "the old-fashioned farmer has a hard time of it. The farm laborer from Devon and Dorset has a farm of his own in Alberta now and is saving money, and home something to the old folks and pays the fare of his brother to come out and help him. This kind of thing is going on to an enormous extent and the standard of emigration is going up all the time. Five years ago Canada used to smile at the British emigrant, a shabby fellow, but no longer now, as Canada, at least, is getting a finer type of Englishman than ever before."

Four years ago 52,000 English folk went to Canada, last year the total was 131,311, and this year the total will probably reach 160,000. The shipping companies report they cannot accommodate all the applicants for berths, and yet never before has the United Kingdom enjoyed such a time of good trade.

Never before has the percentage of unemployed been so low. Mr. Lloyd George said with reason not long ago, "Trade has been so prosperous that never within living memory has it been so difficult to find men."

This is our record year of prosperity, and it also is our year of record immigration.

The Premier

Mr. Asquith has just completed five years as prime minister, and has been in power longer than any Liberal Prime Minister since the redistribution of the seats before the adjournment of the house for the summer recess. He will have achieved the distinction of having presided over an administration longer than any other Liberal statesman during the last half century. It is now 27 years since Disraeli first sent Mr. Asquith to Parliament. He was home secretary 1892-95; chancellor of the exchequer, 1895-9; Premier, 1899-1905.

The Plural Voting Bill

Much disappointment has been expressed by several Liberal members with the Plural Voting Bill introduced by the Government by Mr. J. A. Pease. The measure is much more modest in its details than the bill introduced in 1906, which passed the house of commons by a large majority but was rejected by the house of lords. What the Democratic members desire is a clear and concise statement of electoral reform, so that a man shall have a vote because he is a man, and not on account of the property he has accumulated. Practical amendments are likely to be proposed to make it acceptable to the Radical members whose goal is adult suffrage, one vote for every adult man and woman. A good electoral reform bill passed this session would under the parliamentary act become law during the lifetime of the present parliament. Twenty years ago Mr. Balfour admitted the registration laws required reforming, but unfortunately it appears the vexed question of women's suffrage blocks the way. Neither party seems united on the matter.

The Annual Drink Bill

A slight reduction of the nation's expenditure upon drink for 1912, as compared with the previous year, has been announced by Mr. G. E. Wilson, secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance. The reduction is small, but it must be remembered that former years in trade were always accompanied by great increases, and this reduction, however small, is a welcome sign of a change in the habits of the people. The total amount is \$11,000,000. Mr. Wilson estimates the sum for 1912 as being over \$10,000,000. This is more than is spent upon all the national services, and the money is not only wasted as

far as its usefulness goes, but incalculable misery, disease, crime, lunacy and death accompany this inordinate waste of wealth. Mr. Wilson estimates that probably from one-half to two-thirds of this expenditure is incurred by people who cannot afford it, by people who deprive themselves of necessities to get drink.

British Shipbuilding Record

Returns computed by Lloyd's Register of Shipping show that, excluding warships, the tonnage under construction in British shipbuilding trade

for the quarter ending March, 1913, exceeded the tonnage building for the same quarter of 1912 by over \$77,000 tons.

The Independent Labor Party

The I. L. P. as it is generally known, has this year held its twentieth conference, described as the best ever held, and for its coming of age year has elected as chairman Mr. Kell Hardie, who was also its first chairman. The I. L. P. is a definite Socialist organization, and is confused by many with the Parliamentary Labor

party, of which it is only a part. Seven years after the formation of the I. L. P., the Labor Representation Committee was formed, which changed its name four years later to that of the Labor Party, and which consists now of nearly two million trade unionists, to which the I. L. P. and the Fabian society are affiliated. The I. L. P. is mainly working class and concentrates its efforts on sensible and practical Socialist propaganda. Last year the members contributed over £20,000 to the starting of the daily Labor paper, The Daily Citizen, which is now published.

The Oddfellows' Sunday Parade

The Oddfellows' Sunday parade must bring pleasant recollections to many hundreds of Calgarians of the old-time friendly societies' parades in the city.

has through a bad time on account of lack of funds. The I. L. P. has passed through slump periods, but the reaction has always come, and each succeeding period of activity has carried the movement far beyond the previous high-water mark, and it is claimed today its vigor and energy is greater than that of any other political or reform organization in the country.

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the Old Country. Many must remember the sight it was to see the Oddfellows in all their regular marching two abreast, with swinging arms and little fingers linked, with bands playing and banners flying. There must also be many in Alberta that have taken part in the old village revels and club walks in England, generally held on May 25, known as Oak-Apple Day, handed down from the Stuart period as the anniversary of the day when King Charles II. successfully hid himself from Cromwell's soldiers amongst the leaves of an oak tree.

Second Operation for Duchess

London, April 29.—The second operation was performed on the Duchess of Connaught today. The attending surgeons say it was successful.

found against Miss Ruth Trufant, of Denver, who sued Henry G. Williams for \$50,000 for breach of promise to marry.

Detective Fatally Wounded

Quebec, April 29.—Detective Thophile Trudel was mortally wounded by robbers in a fight early this morning.

No Money Balm for Ruth Trufant

New York, April 29.—The jury

found against Miss Ruth Trufant, of Denver, who sued Henry G. Williams for \$50,000 for breach of promise to marry.

DON'T MISS THE BIG MIXED PAINT SALE ALL THIS WEEK

Ashdown's
110 8th Ave. West.

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Where The Styles Come From

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A Stirring May Event Presenting Thousands of Dollars Worth of Seasonable, Desirable Merchandise at Rare Bargain Prices

MAY, in every well regulated store, is the month for the readjusting of stocks, when every broken lot must be sold regardless of prices. And true to the fact that May is known as the month of blossoms when the tiny buds, caged up so long, spring to life in myriads of flowers, so figuratively speaking are the bargain buds spreading in our store awaiting the call of the shrewd shopper to be picked. Every department joins in with unusual offerings, presenting every sort of desirable and wantable merchandise, many things that you will need for the next few months, and this will be the most profitable time to buy them. This is only a Small Part of the Multitude of Choice Values Offered. But Wednesday You'll Want to be Here Prompt on Time.

We Open Our May Sale with a Special Purchase and Sale of White Undergarments—A Manufacturer's Output—\$10,000 worth of Snow White Garments, offered at about Manufacturers' Cost

This was just a stroke of good luck for our buyers, but think what it means to Calgary women, just the garments you'll be needing for all summer, and the prices—they'll eclipse anything ever attempted before. We bought the entire lot at great concessions off regular prices, could easily put the entire lot into stock and sell them at regular prices, but that's not our way of doing things—a Bargain for us is a Bargain for our customers—and you'll all want to be here early Wednesday. Look at the Prices and see the Garments these Prices represent. Entire lot will be displayed on tables in the main aisle with price tickets

Lot 1. Corset Covers at 35c	Lot 5. Drawers at 25c	Lot 9. Gowns at 50c	Lot 13. Combinations at 95c Regular value \$1.50
Lot 2. Corset Covers at 45c	Lot 6. Drawers at 35c	Lot 10. Gowns at 75c	Lot 14. Ladies' Vests at 20c & 25c
Lot 3. Corset Covers at 55c	Lot 7. Drawers at 45c	Lot 11. Gowns at \$1.00	Lot 15. LADIES' DRAWERS at 35c
Lot 4. Corset Covers at 65c	Lot 8. Drawers at 50c	Lot 12. Gowns at \$1.40	Lot 16. Ladies' Combinations at 50c

Regular values would be from 50c to \$1.00 and more. Regular values would be from 40c to 85c and more. Regular values would be from 85c to \$2.00 and more.

Every garment involved in this sale is clean, well made, being put up by one of the best Canadian manufacturers, lovely crisp, snowy white garments, trimmed in tucks, laces and embroideries, you'll have little trouble in finding what you most desire at a bargain price

May Bargains In Dress Goods and Silks

IMPORTED CREAM SERGES—All Soap Shrunk

42 in. Pure Wool Bradford Serge	60c
44 in. Pure Wool Bradford Serge	75c
44 in. Pure Wool Pile finish Serge	90c
54 in. Pure Wool Coating Serge, heavy	\$1.25
54 in. Pure Wool Mackinaw Serge	\$1.50

BEST VALUES IN NAVY SERGES—All Soap Shrunk

44 in. Bradford Serge, pure wool	60c
46 in. Pile finish Bradford Serge	75c
48 in. Pure Wool Coating Serge	85c
54 in. Fine French Suiting Serge	\$1.75
54 in. Grey Pepper and Salt Heavy Worsted Suiting, suitable for coats or suits; actual value \$1.50 yard.	\$1.00
Special 38 in. Shot Taffeta Silk, soft chiffon finish, pretty combination colors	\$1.25

May Bargains In the Wash Goods Section

COTTON CHALLIES

In a light array of colors, new patterns, bordered effects, dots, stripes and novelty patterns. A very suitable fabric for summer dresses, waists and kimono; regular value 20c. Sale 12½c

CANADIAN PRINTS

Best Canadian Prints, all fast colors, light and dark colors. A good print for aprons, etc. Sale 9c

BED SHEETS

1000 and more Bed Sheets, double bed sizes, made of good standard cottons, well hemmed. Sale price, pair \$1.00

HALF PRICE SALE

Wednesday Morning. 9 a.m. till 12 noon. 3 hours only

TEN DOZEN WHITE SHIRT WAISTS
Embroidered styles, Peter Pan styles, low necks; worth \$1.00 to \$1.75. Sale price for 3 hours 55c

WOMEN'S COTTON AND CASHMERE HOSE
Plain colors and a line of lace and embroidered hose; worth 30c to 45c. Sale price for 3 hours 15c

FIFTY DOZEN LADIES' VESTS
Ribbed Cotton Vests, sleeveless, assorted sizes. Sale price for 3 hours 10c

THREE HUNDRED PAIRS OF CORSETS
Good styles, every pair of them, medium long; 2nd floor. Sale price for 3 hours 45c

FIFTY ONLY, TWEED SKIRTS
Tweed and Panama Skirts, new styles, tailor made; worth to \$6.00. Sale price for 3 hours \$2.75

MISSIE'S PETER THOMPSON DRESSES
Navy Blue Serge Dresses, trimmed with braids and emblems; worth \$12.50 and \$15.00; sizes 14, 15, 16 and 18. Sale price for 3 hours \$6.25

CHILDREN'S WASH DRESSES
Gingham Print and Muslin Dresses, assorted sizes from 2 to 14 years. Sale price for 3 hours Half-Price

Remember, these prices are void after 12 o'clock noon Wednesday. It will pay you to come in the morning.

Crum's English Prints—The Best Print Made

Note the name—"Crum's"—sold everywhere for 15 cents a yard, and without a doubt the best print on the market, guaranteed fast colors. We offer this print for Wednesday, the one day only, at 12½c

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