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LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 11.

ASQUITH'S DEFI.

Premier Asquith last night inaugurated the Government's election campaign at a great meeting in Albert Hall, London. He gave the British progressives what they wanted: a pledge that the ministers would not take office again without the assurance that the will of the House of Commons would be supreme. It was not the frosting of a demagogue, as his opponents are pleased to call Mr. Lloyd-George, whom they are fond of comparing with Asquith, to the latter's advantage. The Premier is a cold logician, and is even accused of being a Whig of the old school. He is supposed to represent one extreme of the cabinet, and Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Churchill the other. But Mr. Asquith speaks for the whole cabinet in this crisis, and shows it to be of one mind. The dominating issue so far as the Liberal party can make it one, will be the destruction of the veto power of the House of Lords as exercised during the past four years.

Mr. Asquith made it plain that the Liberal party did not ask for the abolition of the House of Lords. Under any reform contemplated by the Government, the second chamber would retain a suspensive veto, but not an absolute one. It might suspend any measure not relating to finance, such measures to be the subject of negotiation between the two chambers, but the will of the House of Commons must be supreme within the lifetime of a single Parliament. These changes must be accompanied by a shortening of the life of the House of Commons to four or five years.

Another significant feature of Mr. Asquith's speech was his declaration for Irish home rule. Lord Rosebery deserted the Irish cause after Gladstone's retirement from the leadership, and Mr. Asquith himself gave it only a half-hearted adherence. Apparently he has been thoroughly converted to it, like the majority of his cabinet, by the logic of circumstances. The Unionists will no doubt make the most of the issue, but the Government could no longer evade it. With few exceptions the Liberal members of the House voted for a resolution affirming the principle of Irish self-government, during the leadership of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, a convinced home ruler. The full strength of the Irish Nationalists will now be exerted in the Government's favor.

The budget, the veto of the House of Lords, five-year Parliaments, and Irish home rule, make a combination of great issues, any one of which would furnish material for an exciting general election.

GREAT LAKES WARSHIPS.

The reason assigned for increasing the number of United States warships on the great lakes beyond the limit prescribed in the Rush-Bagot treaty is the Federal Government's desire to place at the disposal of certain states vessels to be used as training ships. In every instance, the consent of the Canadian Government has been asked, and obtained for these additions, on condition that no vessel should be armed while passing through Canadian waters, and that all should be used for training purposes only. No doubt if Canada desired to maintain ship for ship against the United States, the latter would offer no objection.

The Government has been criticised for consenting to the increase of these United States armaments on the lakes, but were it to raise objection, the Washington Government might terminate the treaty, by giving six months' notice. The result would be a naval competition on the lakes, resembling in a small way that between European nations. Mr. Foster, in his recent speech on the subject in the House of Commons, declared that the treaty should be modified. This is a difficult matter, as the present Government at Ottawa has found. When the joint high commission met in Washington in 1859, the Canadian commissioners suggested modifications, but the United States delegates would not agree.

hold itself at liberty to increase the naval armament on the lakes, "if it shall find that proceeding necessary." Lincoln took special pains to say, however, that this war measure was taken with no idea whatever that Canada was intentionally unjust or unfriendly to the United States.

PECULIARITIES OF THE BRITISH ELECTION LAW.

In one respect at least the British election law is behind that of Canada. The agony of a general election lasts for twelve days in Great Britain; here it is all over in one day, and the general result is known before people go to bed.

There are three classes of constituencies in Great Britain—counties, boroughs and universities. The counties are divided into ridings containing a population of 50,000 or upward; the boroughs are towns with a population of 15,000 and upward, and the universities are those connected with the state, such as Oxford, Edinburgh and Trinity.

As in Canada, it is the clerk of the crown in chancery who issues the writs for a general election in Great Britain. County nominations cannot take place earlier than the fourth day after notice of election (which may be given by the local returning officer on the same day or within the two days following his receipt of the writ) or later than the ninth day after receipt of the writ, and polling cannot be held earlier than the third day or later than the seventh day after nomination. Borough nominations cannot take place later than the fourth day after receipt of the writ, and polling not earlier than the day following or later than the fourth day after nomination. The result is that polling occurs in one batch of constituencies one day, in another batch on another day, and so on, according to the convenience of the returning officers.

Registration is conducted once a year, and the lists of elections are made up by the parish overseer, presumably because he is the official most likely to know the standing of those in the parish.

There are three classes of voters—houseowner, occupant or householder by virtue of rental, and lodger, i.e., one who has occupied rooms in the same house for twelve months preceding July 15, the value of the rooms, unguessed, being fixed at \$50 a year. A tenant of a shop or office of the clear annual value of \$50, whether living on the premises or not, and bank managers, schoolmasters, railwaymen, caretakers, servants and others who occupy rooms or houses rent free on their employers' property, are all entitled to the franchise.

Britain still clings to plural voting, and the spreading of polling over so many days will perhaps enable a man owning property in widely separated parts of the kingdom to cast his vote in each.

The parliamentary candidate is limited in his expenditures, which must all be made through his election agent, the amount being regulated according to the number of voters on the list, and the law specifies legal expenditures.

It looks as though Ireland is about to get her inning.

If the Intercolonial Railway ever succeeds under public ownership, the Montreal Gazette will be heartbroken.

The heckler takes a risk. "Don't you wish you were a man?" a British suffragette was asked by a youth at Uxbridge, England, the other night. "Yes; don't you?" came the reply.

Canada's status as an integral part of the British Empire may depend upon the result of the coming political struggle in England.—Montreal Star.

Stuff and nonsense! Has Sir Hugh Graham's title turned his head?

The abolition of the Septennial act in Great Britain would be real reform. No party should be in office more than five years without consulting the people. The last Government of Great Britain continued in power for nearly two years after it had plainly lost public confidence.

The Duke of Bedford has sold an estate of 23,000 acres to his tenants. There are now 86 owners instead of one. It is a good thing for the 86 owners and for the country. If the budget does nothing worse than break up the great estates, future generations will be glad and call it blessed.

Mr. Chafin, an American temperance reformer, approved the Ontario three-fifths clause in the local option law, because a three-fifths vote is needed to restore liquor licenses where they have been abolished. His opinion is giving much comfort to Ontario Government organs. The principle of majority rule, however, is the only sound one. If the majority want no licenses, the majority should prevail. If the majority want the license system, the majority should prevail. Mr. Chafin's reason for approving the three-fifths rule is its condemnation.

WHEN THE SLEEPER WAKES.

[United Presbyterian.]

"John!" she exclaimed, jabbing her elbow into his ribs at 2:17 a.m. "Did you lock the kitchen door?" And John who is inner guard, and was just then dreaming over last evening's lodge meeting, sprang up in bed, made the proper sign, and responded, "Worshipful Ruler, our portals are guarded." Oh, he hit the title right, even if he was asleep.

CHEW YOUR FOOD.

[Good Housekeeping.]

A witty woman has coined the word "munchoon" to describe one of Horace Fletcher's feasts.



Kingsmill's for Practical Presents

Two weeks today is Christmas. This store stands ready to supply your many Christmas wants. Every section is teeming with suggestions in useful, sensible gifts. No trouble to choose your gifts. There is deep-seated confidence that prices are right at KINGSMILL'S.

MAIL ORDER AND OUT-OF-TOWN CUSTOMERS

When in London make this store your shopping home. Our mail order department does your buying promptly and carefully. Each article is bought by experts who probably are more particular than you would be. Write us your wants.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Twice the Regular Space for Handkerchief Section

Handkerchiefs are neatly boxed in handsome boxes, with views of London on each cover.

LADIES' Fancy Handkerchiefs in box. Five in a box. Special, per box 25¢
Fancy Handkerchiefs, three in box, per box 50¢
Fancy Handkerchiefs, lace edge, reg. 10¢ each, special, 4 for 25¢
Plain Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, at 2 for 25¢
GENTLEMEN'S Irish Linen Handkerchiefs, 15¢, 20¢ and 25¢
Initial Linen Handkerchiefs, direct from the makers in Ireland, each 25¢ and 40¢
Heavy Twill Silk Handkerchiefs, plain and initial, 25¢ and 50¢
All kinds of Handkerchiefs. A vast and complete range. Prices from, each \$1 to \$2.25

TRAVELLING RUGS

Suitable for the lounge or the bed. A warm rug for the carriage or sleigh. A handsome present. Prices \$2.25 to \$6.50

Rugs, Carpets, Draperies and All Homefurnishings

In our mammoth housefurnishing warehouse, Carling street. The people at home will say, "Well, you have guessed right this time. And it came from Kingsmill's, too. How handsome it is."

HANDSOME HEARTH RUGS

In beautiful Oriental and Floral designs, in large range of choice colorings. This Rug is honestly and actually worth \$3.00. Price, \$2.35

A NEW CARPET MAKES A USEFUL PRESENT

A special feature is our Imported Brussels at 96¢ a yard. This carpet, although not sold elsewhere, compares favorably with many Brussels at \$1.15. It comes in all the newest two-tone, Oriental and Floral colorings and patterns. Suitable for any room. We ask your inspection. Made and laid, yard, 96¢

Linoleums, Draperies, Rugs, Curtains and all other homefurnishings in our mammoth warehouse. Carling street.

Useful Gifts for Children

Golf Jackets, in cardinal, navy and white, to fit children from 2 to 10 years of age, only, each \$1.25
Children's Overalls in white, scarlet, black and cardinal. Fit from 2 to 6 years, at pair, \$1.50, \$1.75
Warm White Woollen Mufflers at, each 25¢ and 50¢
Infants' Booties, wool-lined, at, per pair 25¢
Infants' Booties, pale blue trimmings; also pure white; at, per pair 50¢ and 75¢
Infantes, in white and cardinal, at, per pair 25¢
Angora Infantes, at, per pair \$1.50 and \$1.75

CHRISTMAS SALE OF LINENS

LINENS FROM THE "QUALITY STORE" ARE FAMOUS. Many handsome and useful Christmas Gifts are here displayed.

TABLE CLOTHS

Pure Linen, imported from the makers in Ireland.
8 ft. by 10 ft. \$1.40 and \$1.75
8 ft. by 12 ft. \$1.50 and \$2.00

TABLE SETS

Cloth and Napkins to match. Cloth size, 8 ft. by 10 ft. Napkins size ¾. Twelve Napkins in each set. Per set \$3.50 to \$7.25

SPECIAL LINE OF HEAVY IRISH DAMASK NAPKINS, size ¾. Regular, \$3.50. Christmas sale, per dozen \$2.50
Japanese Battenburg Lace Centres 18 by 18 inches. 30¢ to \$1.50
30 by 30 inches. 85¢ to \$1.35
French Peasant Lace Centre Pieces Size 18 by 18 inches, 80¢ to \$1.50
Size 30 by 30 in., \$2.25 to \$4.50

GLOVES—Most Daintily Boxed

Wertheimer's Gloves, sold only by this store, are guaranteed in every way to give perfect satisfaction.

Ladies' 2-clasp Kid Gloves, in tan, brown, white and black. Special \$1.00
"Ascot," two-clasp Kid Gloves, gusseted, Paris points, in all shades, tan, taupe, champagne, navy, green, white, black, \$1.25
"Waldorf," two-clasp, pique, gusseted, wear well, very stylish; taupe, tan, brown, navy, green, white, black \$1.25
Ladies' Tan Cape Gloves, silk-lined, strap wrist; very new style. Pair \$1.35
Ladies' Kid Gloves, wool-lined, in brown, mocha, fur-lined, \$2.25
Men's and Children's Gloves. An endless assortment. All kinds, all prices, but best quality obtainable at each price.

CHRISTMAS HOSIERY

From the Store Famous for Good Hosiery

Ladies' Fancy Cashmere Hose, full-fashioned, neatly embroidered in pink, wistaria, champagne, white, fawn, helio, etc. Prices, per pair 40¢, 50¢, 75¢, \$1

We wish particularly to ask your inspection of our line at 40¢. They are excellent quality and very neat.

Ladies' Black Cashmere Hose, full-fashioned; very elastic; extra weight; finest quality. Price, per pair 75¢

Black Cashmere Hose, made of fine wool (selected). Very durable and comfortable. Price 60¢

Black Cashmere Hose, seamless, full-fashioned, pair 35¢

Or 3 pairs for \$1.00

Black Cashmere Hose, full-fashioned, seamless; excellent quality. Special 23¢

MEN'S SEAMLESS CASHMERE, extra quality, in black only. Special, 21¢, or 5 pairs for \$1.00

MEN'S FANCY CASHMERE, all colors 50¢

MUFFLERS

For Ladies, Gentlemen and Children

Fancy Knitted Wool Mufflers, fastened at back of neck; pure white, sky and white, navy and white, and other colors. 50¢ and 75¢

The "Bradley" Muffler, in sky, navy, seal, black, grey and white. It has the V-shaped back. Is perfect-fitting. Price 50¢

SILK MUFFLERS — In black, white and colors. Prices, from, each 50¢ to \$1.25

TEA CLOTHS

Plain. 20 ins., Christmas sale, 14¢
24 in. Christmas sale 16¢
Check, red and blue. Sizes 20 to 27 inches. Christmas sale prices, each 8¢ to 15¢

Fine Irish Hand-Drawn Diaper

Face Towels
Size 22 by 45. Specials 40¢ to \$1
22 by 44. Specials 40¢ to 75¢

These are very fine quality and are at very special prices for our Christmas sale.

Tea Cloths and Glass Cloths. Name on each cloth. Dozen, \$1.50

FINE JAPANESE HAND-DRAWN LINEN CENTRE PIECES

Size 18 by 18 90¢ to \$1.50
Size 30 by 30 \$1.00 to \$2.25

PARIS NECKWEAR

Not all our Ladies' Neckwear is from Paris. It comes from all the fashion centres. Such a fascinating array of new and novel styles.

Ladies' Black and White Collar, trimmed with jet 50¢

White Net Collar and Tab, trimmed with cluny lace and insertion 50¢

Fancy Collar—The very newest. Made of pompadour net. Trimming of velvet ribbon and buttons 50¢

Cream Net Collar, with gilt band and tab 50¢

The New Princess Bow, in all colors 40¢

The New Victoria Bow; very neat colors 25¢

Silk-Embroidered Collars, trimmed with gold cords, in copenhagen, olive, brown, black, wistaria and navy. Special 50¢

Direct from Paris. Just arrived—The new creation Jabot, made of gilt copper, also gunmetal; with duchess ribbon, in all colors. Prices 75¢ and 90¢

Ladies' White Embroidered Collars, lace frill fasteners at the back. Prices 15¢, 20¢ and 25¢

New Spanish Fascinators, in white, black, pink and white, blue and white, and black and white. Imported from Paris \$2.75

Silk Scarfs, made of very fine quality silk. Colors, mauve, blue, rose, brown, white, black, wistaria, olive, Nile, pale blue and pink, with and without fringe. Each \$1.00 and \$1.40

Feather Boas, made of real ostrich plumes, in white, black, black and white, brown and white, and grey. Prices from \$3.00 to \$18.00

Special sale of Fine Feather Boas. Length, 2 yards. Colors sky, pink, grey and white. Regular \$1.75. On sale 99¢

A few Capelines left, made of finest coque plumage. Special, \$1.50

OUR MEN'S SECTION

MEN'S NECKWEAR — Our range of the newest in Neckwear is particularly worthy of your inspection. The new Knit Ties are here, also all the latest novelty effects. Each 25¢ and 50¢

Men's Suspenders and Armlets, also Garters, neatly done up in boxes 25¢ to \$1.00

MEN'S SHIRTS—Just received a new line of Shirts. All the newest effects. Good cloth, neat patterns. All sizes, 12 to 17½. Prices, 59¢, 69¢, 75¢ and \$1.00.

Mufflers—All the newest shapes, in all colors. Prices, 40¢ to \$1.25

Belts, Purses, Handbags, Leather Goods

An interesting display in the Belt Department.

Ladies' Hand Satchels, in brown, black and ox-blood. Regular \$1.60, for \$1.00

Finger Purses, all colors. Special, each 50¢ to \$1.25

Ladies' Hand Bags, large size; two apartments. Regular \$1, for 50¢

Alligator Hand Bags, for \$1.00. Regular \$2.00. Colors are brown, tan, green and grey. Special, \$1.00

Real Seal Hand Bags, in black; double handle, leather-lined, small purse inside. Specials, at \$2.25, \$2.50 and \$2.75

Belt Lengths, regular \$1.00 a yard, for 50¢ for 30 inches.

Needle Cases, 25¢, 35¢, 40¢, 70¢

Sterling Silver Thimbles, each 25¢ to 75¢

SEE OUR LADIES' BELTS.

Handsome Waist Lengths From Europe—A Christmas Suggestion

Cream Wool De Lain Shirtwaist Lengths, neatly embroidered with wash silks, in dainty shades of pink, sky, reseda, fawn, helio, etc. Special Christmas sale, each \$1.50

Embroidered Silk Waist Lengths. Various colors on white ground. Make an acceptable Christmas present. Price, each \$1.50

BLACK SILKS

Raduntines, from 42¢ to 85¢

Paillettes, from 59¢ to \$1.50

Taffetas, from 50¢ to \$1.25

Tamelines, from 45¢ to 50¢

Crepe Silks, from 70¢ to \$1.25

Louisines, from 75¢ to \$1.25

Armures, from 60¢ to 75¢

Luxors, from 60¢ to 75¢

Satins, from 50¢ to \$2.50

Radzimers, from \$1.75 to \$3

Besides an endless assortment of Plain and Fancy Silks, suitable for every use.

Waists, Knit Coats, Etc. Make Useful Presents

Beautiful Blouses in Cable, Point d'Esprit and Plain Nets. Colors, black, Paris and ecru. Prices from \$3.25 to \$15.00

A large range of Blouses, in Japanese Messaline and Chiffon Taffeta Silks. Newest tailored styles. Designs by the new designers. Ranging in price from \$2.25 to \$9

We can give you all colors in SWEATER, PONY and BOX COATS, made of fine selected wool. Prices \$1.75 to \$3

See Our Window for Bargains in Children's Bear Cloth Coats

WHITE—

1 only, reg. \$8, size 26, for \$6.00

1 only, reg. \$8, size 24, for \$5.50

1 only, reg. \$5.50, size 20, for \$4.50

1 only, reg. \$5, size 26, for \$3.00

1 only, reg. \$4.50, size 24, for \$3.00

2 only, reg. \$4.00, size 20, for \$2.50

COLORED—

1 only, red, reg. \$4.50, for \$3.00

1 only, red, reg. \$4.00, for \$2.75

1 only, red and black, reg. \$6, for \$4.00

1 only, red and black, reg. \$5.50, for \$3.75

1 only, brown, reg. \$5.00, for \$3.75

1 only, brown, reg. \$4.50, for \$3.50

Sale of Finest Imported Eiderdowns

In choice patterns and serviceable covers. All made of real eiderdown. Size 5 ft. by 6 ft., and 6 ft. by 6 ft. Prices from \$3 to \$8.75

CHOOSE YOUR PRESENTS AT THIS STORE NOW.

Pay a small deposit on any articles and they will be kept till you wish them.

SHOP EARLY.

The Reliable Store

Kingsmill's

Where Quality Counts

\$1.50 Fancy Blouse Lengths 75¢. Silk embroidered in all the newest designs and dainty colorings to clear at - - - 75¢