

London Advertiser.
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LONDON, FRIDAY, FEB. 19.

A China Puzzle.

If Mr. Chamberlain came to town the aldermen would meet him in their silk hats, occupy seats on the platform at his public meeting, and whoop it up for the old flag. It is probable that all of them profess to be Chamberlain men and ardent friends of imperial preferential trade.

Mr. Chamberlain particularly asks the colonies not to create, by means of tariff dodging, industries which they do not now possess, but which exist in the mother country and for which the mother country has special facilities. The china industry is an example. No china is made in Canada, the bulk of it is imported from Great Britain, where they have been manufacturing it for generations. Mr. Chamberlain says in effect to Canada: "Don't raise your duty on china with the object of stimulating its manufacture there. We can make china more cheaply than you can. Leave us your market in china, and other articles which you do not produce, and send us in exchange the things in the production of which you have a natural advantage."

An American firm comes in with a proposition to build a china factory in this city if the duty on china, now 20 per cent, against Great Britain, is raised to 70 per cent. They say that a 70 per cent tariff will enable them to do business in this country; in other words, 70 per cent will be "adequate protection." The proposition comes before the manufacturers' committee of the city council, where the disciples of adequate protection take fright when they are confronted with the real thing. One of the gentlemen says he will vote for no government which would could such a tariff wall around the country. A general solicitude is shown for the preferential tariff.

The committee finally straddles the fence by recommending the council to petition the Government for an increase in the tariff on china, but not to the extent of 70 per cent. They are willing to hit the British manufacturer, but not so hard as the American firm desires.

Canadian are within their rights in advocating an increase of the duty against Great Britain or any other country, if they believe Canadian interests will be served. Their first duty is to their own country. But it is hardly consistent on their part to trade for imperial preferential trade and take every opportunity to give it a black eye. There is more truth than poetry in the remark of a British statesman that many Canadians want a preference in the British market, but are not willing to pay for it.

Russia's Naval Prowess.

The Russian squadron at Port Arthur has made a sorry exhibition of it, but Russia's naval prestige has been redeemed by the marvelous exploits of the other squadron at Vladivostok. This latter consists of the first-class cruisers Grombol, Rossia and Rurik and the protected cruiser Bogatyr. When the war broke out these ships were icebound in Vladivostok harbor. They were released by a sudden thaw or an ice-breaking machine and when next heard from were bombarding the Japanese port, Hakodate, 480 miles away. On their return they were blown up by mines in Tsugaru Channel, but went on their way rejoicing, and next day sunk a Japanese merchant ship, the Akoura Maru, off the Island of Yezo. They then jumped from the Sea of Japan to the Pacific Ocean, sailed down the enemy's eastern coast seven hundred miles and gliding into the inland seas of Japan, blew holes in the city of Matsushima. Today's dispatches show that they have re-entered the Sea of Japan and taken refuge at Chestakoff, Korea. Tomorrow we may hear that they are in cold storage again at Vladivostok. It will not be safe to assume that the Japs have established command of the seas until this marvelous Vladivostok squadron is put out of business.

The New Assessment Law.

The Attorney-General of Ontario, in moving the second reading of the new assessment bill, gave an interesting review of the history of municipal taxation in the Province, dating from the first legislation in 1793, when rates were levied in every district for the payment of members of the Assembly and other purposes. The personal property tax, which is now to be abolished, was introduced in the following year. In 1807 every acre of cultivated land was assessed 20 shillings, and uncultivated land 2 shillings. Houses were taxed according to the number of fireplaces and the cut of the timber used in their construction. Machinery, which is to be exempt under the new bill, was first taxed in 1851. In 1853 the foundation of the present system was laid. This act introduced the exemption of personal property to the extent of the owner's debts, which has been fruitful of difficulty. Since then there have been many modernizations of the law, but the main principles remained unchanged for half a century. The growth of new and complicated business conditions resulted in inequalities, which called for a radical change in the assessment system. The Government appointed a royal commission to investigate the problem, and its report is the groundwork of the present bill. The house tax, proposed by the commission was found to be unpopular, and has been eliminated. The per-

sonality tax will be superseded by the business tax in accordance with the commission's recommendation. The latter suggested that the business tax be between 7½ and 10 per cent on the rental value of the premises, but it was found this would work out to the disadvantage of the retail merchants, as compared with the wholesale. The committee of the Legislature, having this matter in hand, decided to vary the basis of assessment as between different classes in the community. The retail merchant, in lieu of his present tax on his personal property will pay a tax on the value of the premises he occupies for business purposes. Professional men, departmental stores, financial institutions, distilleries, breweries, hotels and various business establishments will pay on a higher rate. These taxes are certain in their application, and cannot be evaded. The collection of the income tax will still be attended with difficulty, as the majority of people are reluctant to tell the assessor the exact amount of their earnings. Street railways, gas companies, electric light and power companies and telegraph companies will pay as at present, and telephone companies in cities, towns and villages will be taxed on 60 per cent of their gross earnings. The Attorney-General makes the important announcement that before the present session of the Legislature is over a measure for a very decided increase in the taxes paid by railways will be introduced. He agrees with the farmers that the railways have been getting off too easy. It is gratifying to know that the revision of the assessment act has not been made a party issue, but has been dealt with on a strictly business basis. It is in the treatment of such questions that the Legislature is seen at its best.

The dispatches indicate that Russia is so sore over her defeats that she wants to fight Great Britain, too.

If this is a war between the white and yellow races, what do the white races think of their representative?

Lord Stratheona has given \$20,000 to Manitoba University. While his lordship is aiding the cause of higher education, he might look this way.

Lord Rosebery says the Liberals will sweep the country at the next election. They may find it easier to do that than to patch up their own differences after the sweep.

With the Russians and Japs fighting, a revolution threatened in the Balkans, and a war between France and Great Britain in prospect, Gamey has very little show these days to get the limelight. No wonder the Opposition is quiet.

The London Free Press advocating reciprocity in soft coal with the United States is on a par with Hugh John Macdonald, demanding that agricultural implements be put on the free list, and Sir Hilbert Tupper voting for free coal oil. The inconsistencies have not been all on one side, we admit. The tariff is fruitful of anomalies.

Sir Gordon Sprigg, Premier of Cane Colony, has been defeated in the riding he has represented for nearly 30 years. He flirted with the Bond or Dutch party and has been turned down by his English constituents. Dr. Jameson, the leader of the Jameson raid, reigns in his stead.

QUICK ACTION.

[New Orleans Times-Democrat.] First Russian—You say the fight was quickly over?

Second Russian—Yes, it was finished before you could say Jackpotinsky Robinsonopolotowsky!

ON THE SAFE SIDE.

[Washington Post.] Telegrams from Montreal state that the police accompanied J. Pierpont Morgan during his stay in that city. It is not explained whether the purpose was to furnish protection to Mr. Morgan or against him.

THE "FLY" FLY.

[Philadelphia Press.] "Good morning," said the spider, adding the familiar polite invitation to step into the parlor. "Step into your parlor," repeated the fly with a knowing wink. "You mean your dining-room, don't you? No, thank you."

ONE AT A TIME.

[Hamilton Herald.] Russian newspapers have begun to bitterly attack Britain—of course, with the consent of the Russian Government. It would be wiser on the part of the Russians to concentrate their attacks on their present enemy. They have trouble enough without hunting for more.

CONTRACTS.

[Kansas City Star.] It would be just as impossible, by the way, to secure the acquittal in England of a swindler like Whitaker Wright, as it is to convict a boodler like Ed Butler in Missouri. This is hard on the Fourth of July orators, but it is, more's the pity, the God's truth.

AN ENNOBLING FORCE.

[Montreal Witness.] One thing that the Liberal party certainly has to boast is a noble-minded chief. No chieftain can rule in any democratic country without a majority; and a majority cannot be very much above the average moral quality of the people. A leader has to work with the material that offers. But most people will acknowledge that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been an ennobling force which has qualified for the better

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MONOSYLLABIC.

[Joseph Addison Alexander, D.D.] The following poem shows that monosyllables may be made to utter nervous, musical poetry.

Think not that strength lies in the big, round word, Or that the brief and plain must needs be weak; To whom can this be true who once has heard The cry for help, the tongue that all men speak, When want or woe or fear is at the throat, So that each word gasped out is like a shriek.

Pressed from the sore throat, or a strange, wild note Sung by some fay or demon? There is a strength Which dies if stretched too far or spun too fine.

Which has more height than breadth, more depth than length, Let but this force of thought and speech be mine, And he that will may take the sleek, cat phrase, Which glows and burns not, though it gleams and shines, Nor is it mere strength that the short word boasts; It serves of more than fight or storm to tell—

The roar of waves that dash the rock-bound coasts, The crash of tall trees when the wild winds swell, The roar of guns the groans of men that die On blood-stained fields. It has a voice as well.

For them that far off on their sick beds lie, For them that weep for them that mourn the dead, For them that laugh and dance and clasp the hand, To joy's quick step as well as grief's low tread.

The sweet, plain words we learn as first keep time, And though the theme be sad or gay or grand, With each, with all, these may be made to chime In thought, or speech, or song, or prose, or rhyme.

"RATS!"

[New York Times.] Some things that happen on the stage are very wonderful. An English audience was recently marveling at a dog which was playing a bit of an old masterpiece on a piano. Suddenly some one in the audience yelled "Rats!" and the dog made a break for the piano. But the music kept right along, just the same.

AUSTIN UP TO DATE.

The London Daily Express publishes this clever parody on Alfred Austin's New Year's ode:

Tubes boring deeper and deeper—Whence, and Whither, and Why? Yerkes follows Morgan about the earth and buys what he doesn't buy—Portraits of them and personal parts, and the Yankee banner unfurled, Diving under and jumping over and playing the deuce with the world, Middle-class Japs of respectable habits, torn from their homes afar, Marching in mackintosh made in Bavaria, keeping a watch on the Czar, Strange to observe their remarkable doings this time of the year.

Marconiograms sending friends severed by limitless leagues of sea, No peace at all for first-class passengers summoned from afternoon tea, Encyclopedias moving forward on the passionless page of The Times, Everything you can possibly think of mixed up with the Christmas chimes;

That is the way to make such a poem that people may stare and cry—Who but Alfred could do it, but—Whence, and Whither, and Why?

JAPS AT THE WEATHER.

[Toronto Star.] It looks as if the January thaw had thwartlessly eloped with a February frost.

[St. Catharines Journal.] They say that the winter of 1861 was like this one. If the next doesn't come around until 1961 we won't say a word.

[Detroit Tribune.] Instead of exactly 90 feet the correspondents should make the snowdrifts indefinitely mountain high, and let the imagination have a few chances.

[Toronto News.] The slanders of the Canadian climate should pause when they hear that in our best farming districts the railways have been plowing all winter.

[St. John Telegraph.] Capt. Bernier says he hopes to start before long for the north pole. The captain should exercise patience. Judging from the weather this winter the north pole is moving in this direction.

DUEL TO THE DEATH

Seconds Couldn't Prevent Rivals From Continuing Shooting.

Whitesburg, Ky., Feb. 19. — William Little and Samuel Hall, well-to-do farmers of this county, and rivals for the hand of Mary Thomas, the daughter of Magistrate Jim Thomas, a comely mountain girl, agreed to fight a duel after a quarrel at the home of the girl last Sunday. Little selected Matt Steele and William Bates as seconds, and Hall picked Morton Fitzpatrick, and Jay McIntosh.

They agreed to fight at noon on Monday in Squire Thomas' yard, while the magistrate and his family were at dinner, but the secret leaked out, and they were prevented from meeting. The seconds then agreed to have the fight at the foot of Beaver Creek Knob. Everything was arranged and the principals were armed with revolvers. At the first shot both missed, and they wanted to shoot again, but the seconds said they could not. Little, raising his revolver in the air, declared that he would shoot to the death, and told Hall to make ready. Both fired again and again, until their revolvers were emptied, and both lay dying on the ground.

Hall, who is a cousin of the notorious Tail Hall, was shot twice, through the left breast and through the arm. Little received a bullet in the top of the head. The seconds have fled, fearing arrest.

GOLF CURES NIGHTS DISEASE. Chicago, Feb. 19.—Golf is a sure cure for Bessie's disease, according to Dr. E. N. Nash, who has made the statement at a meeting of the Homeopathic Medical Society. Dr. Nash supported his statement by citing cases in which he had noted definite and immediate benefit resulting from the pursuit of the pastime and in the open-air life on the links.

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And greater still, if possible, is the wonderful record of cures of torturing, disfiguring humours among infants and children, such as itching humours, which Cuticura immediately have alleviated among the young, and the comfort they have afforded worn-out and worried parents, have led to their adoption in countless homes as priceless curatives for the skin and blood. Infantile and birth humours, milk crust, scalled head, eczema, rash and every form of itching, scaly, simply skin and scalp humours, with loss of hair, of infancy and childhood, are speedily, permanently and economically cured when all other remedies suitable for children, and even the best physicians, fail.

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SATURDAY'S SALE

"Bargains in Every Department."

There has been a great mark-down of prices in every department for the Special Clearing Sale on Saturday. The greatness of the reductions is the measure of our anxiety for quick clearance, to make room for new stock. This sale continues all day—"not for one hour."

New Stock of Gents' Furnishings.

The new 1904 spring stock of Gents' Furnishings has arrived, which cannot be duplicated for quality and price. It comprises the finest assortment of Gents' Shirts, etc.

50c Suspenders for 40c
Heavy English Suspenders, strong leather tabs, regular price 50c. Sale price..... **40c**

"D" Suspenders.
Fine brass finished, guaranteed not to soil the finest shirts. The best suspender made..... **50c**
"D" SUSPENDERS AT 25c.

Gents' Shirts.
New and exquisite patterns, good wash colors, best fitting. Sale price..... **75c**
Finer grades, \$1 to \$1.50.
White and Colored Shirts, 35c, 50c and 75c.
Linen Collars.
Sizes, 14½ to 17½, regular price 10c, 12½c, 15c. Clearing at..... **5c**
Special Prices for Boys' Underwear.
Men's Fleece-Lined Underwear, at 25c a Garment.....

Corset Specials.

Coutil Corset, linen or white, with or without wide side steel, perfect fitting and durable. Sale price..... **\$1.00**
Medium busts, military hip, steel filled, gray or white, neatly finished with lace or ribbon, all sizes. Sale price..... **\$1.00**
White Batiste Corset, girdle top, long habit hip, bias gored, hose supporters attached; sizes 18 to 26. Sale price..... **\$1.25**
Gray Coutil, for stout figures, bias gored, rust proof, will not break at sides, straight or spoon busk, sizes 24 to 30. Sale price..... **\$1.50**



Hosiery Bargains.

Ladies' Plain Black Cashmere Hose, hand seamed feet, medium weight. Sale price **45c**
Ladies' Extra Heavy Black Cashmere, hand-seamed feet. Sale price..... **90c**
Ladies' Plain Black Lisle Hose, 48c, 55c, 60c
Boys' Wool Hose, Double Soles, all sizes. Sale price..... **40c to 57c**
Babies' Colored Hose, sizes, 4, 4½, 5, 5½ and 6. Sale price..... **25c**

Glove Reductions.

Ladies' Heavy Fleece white wool Gloves ... 40c
Ladies' White Wool Mitts..... 35c
Ladies' 3-button, Black Cashmere Gloves, fleeced, white backs..... **40c**
Ladies' 2-clasp Kid Gloves, in tan, beaver, white and gray 75c

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