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London, Thursday, April 18.

British Budget Today.

Today, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, will bring in his financial statement, and announce the proposals of the Government for meeting, by taxation, the very largely increased expenditure caused by the continuance of the war in South Africa.

The proposals that he intends to make having been kept absolutely secret, there is the keenest interest in the speculations that have taken place in regard to the matter.

Some have been urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to break away from British free trade conditions, and endeavor to get a part of this revenue from a tax on imported breadstuffs and manufactures.

Others appear to be looking for a tax on imported sugar, which, it is claimed, could be so levied as to help the sugar producers of the West Indies, so hard-pressed nowadays by bounty-promoted beet sugar.

Another proposal is to increase the duty on sugar from 25 cents per hundred pounds to 50 cents, and to increase the duty on sugar from 25 cents per hundred pounds to 50 cents.

Census Patronage.

In India, where, as in Canada, the census is being taken, the enumerators receive no pay. It is said that the natives are eager for appointment on the census staff at that figure, and will even offer to supply their own writing materials in order to get the job.

Why does our Opposition contemporary grudge the awarding of the census patronage to friends of the Government? It certainly has a very poor case of grumbling.

Barking Up the Wrong Tree.

The London Free Press says it is understood that Mr. Cameron, of Goderich, son of the late Hon. M. C. Cameron, will be called to give evidence before the Senate Committee, and adds that no doubt his testimony will be of value in reference to the part played by the late M. P. and Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories, in respect of the implications involved in the Cook allegations.

Independence with a string is what is offered to the Cubans by the United States. That is the kind of independence that the Dominion possesses.

Can we remain with our arms crossed when our neighbors who have better schools than ours, a more competent and better paid teaching staff, and a larger budget, wish to push an ahead?

When we see Ontario launching out into the way of school reform, does not La Patrie's campaign become more opportune, more interesting than ever?

A Japanese bacteriologist declares rats to be the greatest propagators of contagious diseases. An appeal is made to the civilized world for the extermination of the malicious little rodent.

Sir Walter Besant, in his recently published book, "East London," gives a graphic account of the social life of the two millions of human beings who are herded together in that part of the great metropolis.

The first duty of a mother is to "harden" the baby. With this view, Liz was fed, while still a tiny infant, on rusks soaked in warm water, and when she was a year old her mother began to give her scraps of beefsteak, slightly fried, or scum; she also administered fish fried in oil—the grease and fragrance of this delicacy fills the whole neighborhood, and hangs about the streets day and night like a cloud.

It would not surprise us if, after all, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach resisted the temptation to tax sugar or breadstuffs, and endeavored to collect the greater part of the revenue required from an increase in the income tax.

FARAGRAPHS ABOUT PEOPLE.

Mrs. Jean Blewett was born at "Scotland," a little villa about two miles from Rondeau harbor, Kent county. She received her education at St. Thomas Collegiate Institute, and afterwards took advantage of a correspondence course under the direction of the English Literature Department of Chicago University.

It is seldom, indeed, in this skeptical, materialistic age, that one meets an apparently solid and hard-headed man of business who is willing to add nothing but a belief in supernatural things, but his own actual experiences with "spirits from the vasty deep."

At today's meeting of the foreign ministers the question of indemnities was considered. It is now estimated that £70,000,000 will cover all claims.

A missionary named Killie (Rev. Mr. Kelly, Presbyterian missionary), has returned from San Ho, where Chinese Christians were burned to death in December. Mr. Killie reports to Gen. Chang that some time ago several of his converts were killed.

There was one skeptic in the family, who scoffed at the idea of the banshee. He was related to our house on his mother's side, his father being a Frenchman. He was a clergyman, with all the clergyman's contempt for belief in superstition.

A dollar bill has a square area of 23 1/2 inches. A single thought is all that is necessary to comprehend its size, but it would require a severe stretch of the imagination to conceive the area covered by the dollars that capitalize the new United States steel combination.

At this time my father-in-law told me to try Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills and said he knew they would cure me. I secured one box, and great was my surprise when I began to feel better after using only one box.

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A NARROW ESCAPE FOR WALTERSEE

At the Burning of the Empress' Palace in Peking.

The Count's Chief of Staff Perished—Chinese Troops Gathering in Force Near the Chi-Li Frontier.

Berlin, April 18.—A dispatch from Peking says that Count Von Waldersee escaped with great difficulty through a window from the burning palace of the empress, which was destroyed by fire yesterday.

It is impossible to ascertain whether the court is playing a double game or its authority is insufficient to prevent the Chinese generals acting in a manner likely to provoke hostilities.

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THE RUNIANS-GRAY CO Friday Bargain Day

More and more people are beginning to find out that the news contained in these columns from day to day are statements of real facts.

25c -- Dress Goods Extra == 25c. We find ourselves somewhat overstocked in Fancy Check and Plaid Dress Goods.

Laces. 150 yards Cream Oriental Lace, with heavy gimp edge, 4 and 6 inches wide.

Embroideries. 20 pieces Swiss and Cambrie Embroidery, 3 to 7 inches wide.

Umbrellas. Ladies' Black Umbrellas, silk fashion cover, fancy handles.

Groceries. Our Imperial Blend 40c Black and Mixed Teas, per pound.

Carpet Department. 150 yards English Tapestry Carpet, good colorings, neat patterns.

CONDEMNED TO DEATH. St. Petersburg, April 17.—3 p.m.—News has been received here from Seoul, Korea, to the effect that the Korean minister of justice, Yi Kon Ho, was arrested April 17.

INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM.—Mr. S. Ackerman, commercial traveler, Belleville, writes: "Some years ago I suffered from Rheumatism, and three bottles effected a complete cure."

"Praise the sea but keep on land." Admire window shoes—that's what they were made for.

The Slater Shoe Store, 148 DUNDAS STREET. PATENTS PROMPTLY SECURED.

Staple Department.

78 yards Half-Bleached Table Damask, all linen and union, extra heavy, good width, worth regularly 40c per yard.

Gloves. Ladies' French Kid Gloves, buttoned and laced, in tan and black.

Hosiery. Boys Heavy Ribbed Black Cotton Hose, in sizes 9 and 9 1/2.

Smallwares. 50 Jet Belts, extra value at 25c, special on Friday.

Ladies' Whitewear. Half a dozen only, White Skirts, good cotton, very wide.

Summer Vests. Ladies' Summer Vests, with short sleeves, regular 80c each.



April Showers will not worry you if you have on one of OAK HALL'S WATERPROOF COATS.

WE ARE CLEARING THEM OUT AT A GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE. Any one in need of such an article will do well to visit us during this GREAT SALE OF WATERPROOF COATS.

PETROLIA'S PROSPECTIVE PORK FACTORY. Petrolia, Ont., April 17.—The pork packing company, which has been in process of formation here for several months past, has received its charter.

CATHOLIC CHURCH BURNED. Farnham, Que., April 18.—Tuesday the Catholic church, on Harrison street, was valued at the present day at \$50,000.