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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. This expenditure was at first estimated as likely to be from \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000, but it is already ten times that amount, and is likely to be very considerably augmented before the country is finally pacified.

Such a condition of affairs necessarily causes very great interest in financial, commercial and domestic circles, for all will be more or less affected by the proposals which may be made. That the taxes will be very much increased in some direction goes without saying, for, despite the fact that the revenue for the current year has been very buoyant, and has enormously increased, it cannot be expected to anywhere nearly balance the expenditure, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to look for new sources of revenue from which to draw.

The proposals that he intends to make have been kept absolutely secret, there is the keenest of 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. It is not likely that he will do so, for neither he nor the Prime Minister believe in such taxes, and are averse to making a revolution in the trade policy of the country to meet a passing emergency. 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. Even a duty of a half-penny a pound could be made to contribute from \$3,000,000 to \$3,500,000 to the revenue. But the British industries that are dependent on cheap sugar are very many, and they are up in arms against the imposition of any tax whatever on what is necessarily so great a part of their raw material.

The Jam Makers' and Confectioners' Association has just issued a circular to members of Parliament, stating that 400,000 tons of sugar are used every year in their trade, and that any tax on sugar would be ruinous. It is also urged that it would cripple the fruit growing of the farmers, the manufacture of cattle foods, and the mineral waters trade, and shippers are recalling the argument used by the Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote, when he finally abolished the sugar duties in 1874, "that sugar provides our shipping with the greatest amount of freight." Despite all these protests, there seems to be a strong belief that a tax will be imposed upon sugar, for importers have been for weeks laying in enormous supplies of the commodity, and it is pretty evident that if sugar is taxed after today, but a very small revenue will be raised from it for many months to come.

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—no one pays on a smaller income than \$50 a year—tax stamp duties, and increased duties on intoxicants. It has been said that the British are always patriotic enough to drink a sufficient quantity of beer and whisky to largely pay the country's debts.

If the worst came to the worst, why should not the South African debt be spread over a series of years, so that future generations, who will profit by the development of the great new British Commonwealth, may contribute to the expenditure necessary to the establishment of British law and justice within their borders?

## 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. They like to pose as government officials, and regard the task of collecting the figures gratuitously as a species of amusement. If our census statisticians had to work for nothing it is to be feared that the appointments would be palmed off on the Tories.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

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. In 1871, 1881 and 1891, the three years in which previous censuses have been taken since the Dominion of Canada came into existence, Conservative Governments held sway in this country. They did not go out of their way to appoint

Liberal census enumerators. It is now the turn of the Liberals, and they will in all probability still be in power in 1911. If they are they will only be having their fair turn, and our Toronto Opposition contemporary will have no legitimate cause for complaint.

## 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 as to the offer of the sale of a Senatorship. Our contemporary is unlikely to obtain any consolation in the quarter suggested, as Mr. Cameron, of Goderich, is understood distinctly to state that having looked carefully through the various papers left by his father, he finds nothing whatever to confirm in the slightest degree the allegations made by Mr. Cook.

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. But it is a silken cord of loyal attachment to the freest nation in the world, and costs but the salary of the Governor-General, while we have untold advantages accruing from the connection. If the United States can so treat the Cubans that they shall be as satisfied with their new relationship to the adjoining republic as Canada is with her connection with Great Britain they will indeed be a happy family.

## Healthy Emulation.

We have always been pleased to call attention to the efforts of La Patrie in the cause of educational reform. The aim of that journal is constantly and vigorously directed to create in its constituency an enthusiasm for education.

In its issue of Saturday, April 13, it speaks of the educational movement in Ontario, and makes that the basis of another earnest appeal. It refers to the convention recently held in Toronto, and speaks of it as likely to quicken the desire for improving in every way the efficiency of the schools.

Mr. Cook's statement is quoted: "The present system is pretty much the same as that which was founded in 1851, and yet the general situation of the province, the state, and needs of the people have changed considerably in half a century." Then La Patrie addresses its readers in the following strain:

"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?"

"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 on ahead?"

"Patriots of Quebec, let us work with all our energies to elevate public education in our province."

This is a proper kind of rivalry which need provoke no jealousy.

And now cider as a cure for smallpox. Is it wise to make the remedy too agreeable?

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. Sir Walter tells how the East London mother gives her offspring a start in the world:

"The first duty of a mother is to 'harden' the baby. With this view, Liz was fed, while still a tiny infant, on rusk, soaked in warm water, and when she was a year old, her mother began to give her scraps of beefsteak, slightly fried, to suck; she also administered fish food in the form of mince and fragrance of this delicacy fills the whole neighborhood, and hangs about the streets day and night like a cloud. For drink she gave the baby water in which whiting had been boiled; this is considered a sovereign specific for building up a child's constitution. Sometimes, it is true, the treatment leads to unforeseen results. Another child, for instance, about the same age as Liz, and belonging to the same street, was fed by its mother on red herrings, and, oddly enough, refused to get any nourishment out of that delicate form of food. They carried it to the Children's Hospital where the doctor said it had been starved to death, and made the most unkind remarks about the mother—most unjust, as well, for the poor woman had no other thought or intention than to 'harden the inside' of her child, and all the friends and neighbors were called in to prove that plenty of herring had been administered."

We now know why so many of the native Londoners, who manage to survive this "hardening" process, are stunted in growth, sickly, and even in young manhood and womanhood prematurely old looking.

## A More Regular Life.

[Washington Star.] Aguilino finds that the glory is less but the meals more regular.

## How Is This?

[St. John Globe.] It will not make military service in Canada very popular, or desirable for young men either, if it is to be recruited by the means adopted at London, Ont., where two young men under arrest for bad conduct are to be given the choice of going to prison or serving a year in the garrison at Halifax.

## PARAGRAPHS 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. Mrs. Blewett has met with merited success, in both prose and poetical literature. Her writings, which have appeared from time to time in the various newspapers and magazines, have won a warm place in the hearts of thousands in the neighboring republic as well as in Canada. She possesses an insight into the finer feelings of humanity, and the subtle gift of making others see and feel as she herself feels and sees. Her most popular work thus far, is entitled "Heart Songs." Having lived for a long time in the town of Blewett, Western Ontario naturally claims her as its own, and looks with interest upon her success and favorable recognition in the commonwealth of letters.

## THE BANSHEE'S WARNING.

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 admit not only a belief in supernatural things, but his own actual experiences with them, and a conviction of the vasty deep. I met such a man in Toronto last week, and in the presence of three listeners he told of his family banshee and the warnings it had given to him and other members of his family. It was a chance reference to his father that opened the subject.

"My father dropped dead in his office last summer," said the business man. "I dreamed of it the night before. I was on the boat coming from Montreal, and had heard nothing from my father, so that it was not suggestion that induced my dream. I dreamed that someone came to me and told me that he was dead. The next day at noon we touched at Port Hope, and the first man I saw on the dock was our old family friend, Col. B., who told me that my father had dropped dead the previous day. However, I knew before my dream that something was going to happen, for I heard the banshee."

"The banshee," ejaculated one of the party, evidently unfamiliar with Irish spirit-lore.

"Yes," replied the business man. "Ours is an old Irish family, and we have a banshee. I have heard it many times, and each time the death of a relative has followed. I heard it eight years ago when my mother died. I sat up in bed, wide-awake as I am now, with every nerve quivering, and heard it in the hall outside my door. It was a piercing scream, dying away into a weird, desolate wail. My mother was in perfect health at the time, but she died two days later."

"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. Spite of all he had been told of the banshee's existence, he had laughed at it, and declared he would be convinced when he heard it himself. One morning, when visiting some of our people, he told them he believed in the banshee, for he had heard it the previous night, and he knew when next he heard it he would be beyond the power of ever speaking to them again. Several days after, in the evening, half a dozen members of the household were gathered together, when the banshee's shriek rang out above the house. They turned to the clergyman, and he was lying back in his chair, white and stricken. He did not speak again, and died in two hours."

As the speaker ceased, one of the party quoted Hamlet: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in our philosophy." And that expressed very well the thought that was in the mind of each one of us.

## DO YOU DOUBT IT?

A dollar bill has a square area of 23½ 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. A billion dollars means 28,750,000 square inches, or, to meet the requirements of an ordinary brain, 4,583 acres. The number of acres within the city limits is only 4,478, so that if a quilt were made of the trust's capital and spread over the city, it would be necessary to tuck in a little matter of 106 acres of dollars to keep it from spreading into the adjoining townships. Victoria Park could be covered quite comfortably by such a quilt, even if it were made with 327 dollars piled one on top of the other. If they were all strung together, in the manner of Sir Hopkings' memorable beans, 94 different strings of dollars could be stretched on every inch of city streets, and 1,370 dollars would be unused. Their total length would be 65,625,000 feet, or 12,428½ miles. The London and Port Stanley track is a fraction over 25 miles long, and both rails could be covered with different bills for 270 days of the year. At 5 cents a loaf you could buy 20,000,000,000 loaves of bread, which would require 142,857,142 barrels of flour. To carry such an amount 952,381 freight cars would be required, and they would stretch over 6,133 miles of tracks. For fear that you are not satisfied with the information

already given, we might tell you that at the rate Police Magistrate Love fined transgressors of the law last year, he would need to sit on the bench for at least 63,897 years, to enrich the city treasury by a sum equal to the trust's capital.

## A NARROW ESCAPE FOR WALTERSEE

At the Burning of the Empress' Palace in Pekin.

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

Berlin, April 18.—A dispatch from Pekin 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. Major-General Schwartzkopff, Count Von Waldersee's chief of staff, appears to have lost his life by returning to the burning building after having escaped from it. Incendiarism is suspected.

The palace of the empress was occupied by Count Von Waldersee and his staff.

The foreign office has no further details of the Pekin fire, has no theory as to its origin, and is awaiting further information on the subject.

Prince Herbert Bismarck has made a speech at Burg, in which he criticized Emperor William's zigzag course, quoting the Kaiser's remark: "The way of destruction for the government is to do first this and then that, and promise today what it does not do tomorrow."

A THREATENING MOVEMENT. London, Dec. 18.—A dispatch from Pekin, dated yesterday, says: "Trustworthy reports say that troops in large numbers are massing in the Province of Chi-Li, near the frontier of the Province of Chi-Li. Well-informed natives prophesy further trouble."

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. The ministers of the foreign powers view with alarm the expedition against Gen. Liu Kuan Ting, as they think he will retreat, probably laying his hands on the Chinese, and that such action will be used as an excuse by the military for further aggression.

WANT \$350,000,000. At today's meeting of the foreign ministers a question of indemnities was considered. It is now estimated that £70,000,000 will cover all claims.

LI IS A LIAR. A missionary named Killie (Rev. Mr. Kelly, Presbyterian minister), who returned from San Ho, where Christians were burned to death in December. Mr. Killie reports to Gen. Charles, giving details of the massacre. He says that he saw the guilty parties tried in the Chinese courts, where they were convicted and sentenced to death, and that he saw the bodies of the missionaries found the next day. Mr. Killie came to Pekin and saw Li Hung Chang, who said the men should be executed immediately. Upon going to the Chinese courts, the missionary found the men alive. He spoke to a judge of the Chinese courts on the matter, who thereupon showed him a letter from Li Hung Chang, giving explicit instructions that the men must not be executed, as they had only been convicted.

WILL RENOV HOSTILITIES. The London Standard publishes the following from Tien Tsin: "The report is confirmed that the Chinese have destroyed a portion of the railway beyond Pao Ting Pu. The Chinese assert that Gen. Ma has resolved to recommence hostilities, under the impression that the allied commanders are preparing to send an expedition against Sian Pu from the South."

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 1 for participating in a conspiracy against the Empress of Korea. He named various high officials as accomplices in the plot. Yi Kon Ho was condemned to death April 5, and the assistant minister of the Korean court was sentenced to 15 years' hard labor. The other implicated officials were acquitted.

INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM.—Mr. S. Ackerman, commercial traveler, Belleisle, writes: "Some years ago I used Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for inflammatory rheumatism, and three bottles effected a complete cure. I was the whole of one summer unable to move without crutches, and every movement caused excruciating pains. I am now on the road, and exposed to all kinds of weather, but have never been troubled with rheumatism since. I, however, keep a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Oil on hand, and I always recommend it to others, as it did so much for me."

The branches of the Mississippi have an aggregate length of 15,000 miles.

"Praise the sea but keep on land." Admire window shoes—that's what they were made for. But keep on wearing the shoe you know to be "as good as it looks."—\$3.50, \$5.00.

"The Slater Shoe" "Goodyear Welted"

The Slater Shoe Store, CLODE & CO., 148 DUNDAS STREET.

PATENTS PROMPTLY SECURED

Write today for a free copy of our interesting book "Inventors Help" and "How you are benefited." We have extensive experience in the intricate patent laws of foreign countries. Send sketch, model or photo for free advice. MAMON & MARION, Registered Patent Attorneys, 1000 Bank Building, Washington, D.C.

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. If goods are not as represented they can be returned and money refunded. That's the test we want applied to all our statements.

25c -- Dress Goods Extra -- 25c

We find ourselves somewhat overstocked in Fancy Check and Plaid Dress Goods. The rage for plain fabrics has lessened the demand for these goods. They are, however, just the thing for children's wear and blouse waists. We propose that our mistake in buying too largely of them shall result in great profit to you. A complete clearance to be made. The room needed for other goods. They consist as follows:

12 pieces small and medium checks, were 50c, 12 pieces Fancy Plaids, were 50c, 25 yards Fancy Plaids, were 50c, 6 pieces Fancy Plaids, were 50c, 6 pieces Fancy Plaids, were 50c, 10 pieces Fancy Plaids, were 50c.

All to be cleared Friday and until sold at 25c Per Yard

Laces

150 yards Cream Oriental Lace, with heavy guipure edge, 4 and 6 inches wide; regular price 20c and 25c yard, special price, 15c and 20c yard.

Embroideries

20 pieces Swiss and Cambrie Embroidery, 3 to 7 inches wide, regular price 15c, 20c and 25c per yard, special Friday price, 10c and 15c.

Umbrellas

Ladies' Black Umbrellas, silk finish cover, fancy handles, Paragon frame, regular price 75c and \$1, special Friday price, 50c and 60c.

Ladies' Black Umbrellas, silk and wool cover, Paragon frame, steel rod, fancy handles, extra value, our special price \$1.50.

Groceries

Our Imperial Blend 40c Black and Mixed Teas, per pound, 25c.

5 pounds Choice Dried Apples for, 15c.

5 pounds Cooking Potatoes for, 25c.

5 pounds Rice for, 25c.

5 pounds Pearl Tapioca for, 25c.

5 tins of Sardines in Oil for, 25c.

1 tin of Blueberries, 1 tin of Plums and 1 tin of Peas for, 25c.

1 tin of 20c Baking Powder and 1 pound of our 15c Soluble Loose Cocoa for, 25c.

5 pounds of Gold Dust Cornmeal and 6 pounds of Roller Oatmeal for, 25c.

Choice Table Potatoes, per bag, 25c.

Nice Bright Lemons, per dozen, 11c.

Carpet Department

150 yards English Tapestry Carpet, good coloring, best patterns, regular price 85c, special per yard 60c.

24 Velvet Rugs, size 27x54, our regular price \$1.25, special Friday price, 95c.

Staple Department.

78 yards Half-Bleached Table Damask, in all linen and union, extra heavy, good width, worth regularly 40c per yard, special, 29c.

80 yards Half-Bleached Pure Linen Damask, extra weight, fine quality, regular price 50c, special, per yard 40c.

150 yards Huck and Crash Toweling, all linen, extra heavy, regular close price 10c, special, per yard 8c.

100 yards Metallic Satens, in black, with stripes of gold, green, blue and white, suitable for shirt waists and skirts, regular price 25c, special, per yard 15c.

288 yards Metallic Satens and Satanas, in mauve, gold, cerise, black, blue, sky and cardinal, with polka dots and plain and fancy stripes, regular price 35c, 40c and 50c, special, per yard 25c.

Gloves.

Ladies' French Kid Gloves, buttoned and laced, in tan and black, 5½, 6, 6½, 6¾, 7 and 7½, regular \$1.00 and \$1.25 quality, special Friday and to clear, 50c.

Hosiery.

Boys Heavy Ribbed Black Cotton Hose, in sizes 9 and 9½, special, per pair, 10c.

Smallwares.

50 Jet Belts, extra value at 25c, special on Friday, 15c.

Fancy Brooch Pins, worth from 10c to 25c, special Friday, 5c.

Patent Leather Belts, double-faced, special Friday, 25c.

60 infants' Bibs, special, Friday, each, 3c.

Ladies' Whitewear.

Half a dozen only, White Skirts, good cotton, very wide, made with double bias flounce, with six rows hemstitching, worth \$1.30, Friday, 95c.

Ladies' White Night Gowns, Empire style, trimmed with insertion, and revers of embroidery, made in good Lonsdale, very special, each, 1.00.

Ladies' White Blouses, fine muslin, front made with wide row of fine tucks, fancy tucked back, new sleeve, worth 75c, sizes 32, 34, 36, and 38, very special, Friday, only 50c.

Corsets.

Ladies' Summer Corsets, made in strong white net, firmly made and good fitting, sizes 19 to 25, special, pair, 25c.

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.

WE START THEM AT \$3.75.

Regular price \$6, clearing at, \$4.00

Regular price \$9, clearing at, \$5.00

Regular price \$10, clearing at, \$8.50

Regular price \$11, clearing at, \$7.00

All sewn seams; with and without capes; some velvet collars; double and single breasted; colors, blue, black, dark gray, fawn in plain colors, also a variety of check patterns.

WE NOW CARRY A FULL LINE OF Gents' Furnishings.

The people are greatly delighted at the great values in this department.

Oak Hall, Canada's Greatest Clothiers.

154 Dundas Street. WM. GIBSON, Manager.

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, and building operations are likely to be under way in a very short time. The capital of the company is \$150,000, of which \$100,000 is to be subscribed. The project includes a general cold storage business and will be the first important manufacturing for Lambton county in which farm produce forms the raw material.

CATHOLIC CHURCH BURNED. Farnham, Que., April 18.—Tuesday the Catholic Church was destroyed by fire. It was built in 1850, of stone, and was valued at the present day at \$50,000.

Haverhill, Mass., April 18.—The St. James parochial school, on Harrison street, a three-story wooden structure, of 17 rooms, was destroyed by fire Tuesday. Loss estimated at \$50,000.

CATARRH OF THE HEAD. Cured by Trask's Magnetic Ointment, or your money back, 25 and 40 cents, at McCallum & Co's.

Jealousy always has a target to shoot at.