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LONDON, THURSDAY, MARCH 26.

NOT A SQUARE DEAL.

The Whitney Government, with its preponderant majority, can well afford to be just and impartial in its redistribution of constituencies. It will not be fair or decent if it insists upon all the changes proposed by its appointees on the redistribution committee.

The necessity of a wholesale rearrangement of constituencies was imposed upon the Federal Government by the census of 1901, and the desirability of restoring county boundaries. There is no such obligation upon the Whitney Government. New Ontario, the city of Toronto, and the city of London are entitled to more members, but there is absolutely no argument for laying hands upon nearly thirty constituencies, as the Government apparently intends to do.

The federal redistribution was accomplished with such a regard for fair play that it aroused no party animosities. Has this magnanimous example been thrown away upon the Whitney administration? Has it surrendered to local party wirepullers in this case, as in the case of the civil service dismissals?

The proposed rearrangement of Middlesex County, for example, can be defended upon no principle whatever. It does violence to geography and equality of population alike. The only and obvious purpose is to make a doubtful riding safe for the Government. It is a loading of the dice, and the Opposition will be justified in offering the utmost possible resistance.

In Toronto, also, the Government coolly proposes making itself a present of four more seats, by simply giving each riding two members. The honest course would be the creation of more constituencies in the city, but it might permit the Liberal minority to elect a member or two. The present plan deprives the thousands of Toronto Liberals of any chance of representation.

Will the Government do the fair thing, or is it useless for Liberals to look for a square deal from the Conservative party?

HEARST'S NEW PARTY.

Finding that he has nothing to expect from the Democratic party, Wm. Randolph Hearst has formally renounced it and launched a new party, "the National Independents." Thus far Mr. Hearst's newspaper support is practically confined to his own group of journals, and while he is not likely to figure largely in the election returns next November, he may have it in his power to make trouble for the Democrats.

Mr. Hearst takes the ground that the Democratic party has outlived its usefulness, doubtless because it appears to have so little use for him. Neither of the old parties, he claims, any longer stands for any definite idea. Men are Democrats by inheritance and Republicans by tradition, says the founder of this new party. There are Democrats who believe in free trade, and Democrats who believe in protection. There are trust Democrats and anti-trust Democrats. There are Democrats who believe in public ownership of public utilities, and Democrats who believe in private ownership of public officials. There are Democrats who differ fundamentally from other Democrats and who agree absolutely with certain Republicans. He has reached the conclusion that of all the various parties that exist in the nation the two that are the most bitterly, the most utterly and most uncompromisingly opposed to each other are the radical Democratic party and the conservative Democratic party. For these reasons Hearst says he has found it necessary to form a new party, which he claims stands for the principles of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, and he calls on all true patriots to rally to its support.

Among the cardinal principles in the Hearst platform are: Direct nominations by the people, of all candidates for office; the election of United States senators and judges by the people; an income tax, the referendum; the right of the people to recall public officials from public service; the immediate government ownership of railroad and telegraph lines; emergency currency to be issued only by the Government; a law making blacklisting illegal; an interstate commerce court to enforce the rulings of the interstate commerce commission; a ship subsidy for the development of commerce, and a national postal savings bank.

A QUESTION OF MUNICIPAL RIGHTS.

Newspapers which complain of the

invasion of provincial and municipal

rights by the Federal Government,

are not consistent in applauding the

Bowyer bill, now before the Legisla-

ture. The measure is an attack upon

the liberty of the municipalities,

yet some journals, including the Lon-

don Free Press, criticize local author-

ities for offering opposition to it.

Mayor Stevely, Ald. Beattie and other

members of the city council are

stigmatized as tools of the Bell Tele-

phone Company because they have

maintained that London and sister

cities should have the right to

say whether or not they shall

allow more than one telephone

company to do business within

their boundaries. The Bowyer

bill seeks to rob the municipalities of

the control of their own affairs by

prohibiting the granting of an exclu-

sive franchise.

One effect of the bill would be to

deprive London of the revenue de-

rived from the exclusive franchise

granted the Bell Company. This

would not be the worst result. Any

telephone company would have the

right to use the city streets, and dis-

figure them still further by the erec-

tion of unsightly poles and wires. No

community desires two telephone sys-

tems, if it is reasonably served by

one. The telephone systems of the

country are to be placed under the

jurisdiction of the railway commis-

sion, and this is an assurance that the

municipalities will receive fair play in

the matter of telephone service and

rates.

It is worth while for the Whitney

Government to lose its reputation in

order to win a few seats?

In the budget debate, Mr. Sifton

made a noise like a statesman, and

Mr. Foster made a noise.

Why all this opposition to Mr. Mc-

Naught's bill for the inspection of

bakeries and for standard-weight

loaves?

The Whitney Government proposes

to treat Huron and Middlesex alike—

by making two safe seats for itself in

each county.

Roosevelt urges Congress to revise

the tariff without delay, but will

Congress dare attempt it? The "in-

fant" industries coddled by Uncle

Sam have long since taken the old

gentleman by the throat.

Some of us have difficulty in exact-

ly defining Socialism in these days,

but the matter is perfectly clear to

Senate Power. In his opinion the

ownership of any public utility is

Socialism. Why not sell the streets

and the highways to private corpora-

tions?

LITTLE LOOSE-TONGUED.

[Ottawa Free Press.]

The lawyers made \$30,000 out of the

Whitney Government last year. That

is what the Busy Bee on Ottawa Par-

liament Hill would call disgusting graft.

THE COLONEL'S BURDEN.

[Toronto Star.]

Colonel Matheson has been delivered of

his budget. The surplus which the

colonel persisted in speaking of as the

silly fabric of a dream until his party

got into power amounts to six-hundred

thousand dollars. It causes him six

hundred thousand anxieties, to be sure,

but what of that? As a hen that gath-

ereth her chickens under her wings, so

is the colonel.

The colonel expects to have over nine

and a half millions to come and go on

next year. It looks a lot, but it is none

too much for the scale of living a Con-

servative Government thinks proper for

this province. Everything has gone up—

food, coal, wood, and also the Govern-

ment's ideas of what is the least we

can get along on. No tight wads are

Premier Whitney and his colleagues.

There is the emancipated spirit which

spurns filthy lucre. They get rid of it

as soon as they can. They are free and

easy spenders.

NO TIME TO WASTE.

[Puck.]

Lady (to caller)—You won't mind my

going on with my work while you're

here, will you? Then I shan't feel I'm

wasting time.

CANADA IN GOOD HANDS.

[Le Soleil, Quebec.]

Le gouvernement, grace a la sagesse de

son administration et a la solidite de son

credit, entend continuer sans ralentisse-

ment la construction du Transcontinental.

Le Canada a donc l'assurance de pour-

voir continuer en toute securite, sa

marche en avant vers le progres.

See destinies sont en bonnes mains.

THE OLD STORY.

[Puck.]

Motorist (who has missed his road)—

How far is it to the next town, friend?

Lonely individual (with an attempt at

briskness)—You're right there now. Why

go further? Beautiful Bunko Park! Fine

air! Pure water! Glorious outlook! Streets

all made? Lots for sale on tempting

terms! See agent on premises or write

for booklet.

IN SYMPATHY.

[Puck.]

Mr. Henpeck—I hear that young Jones

and his wife are not getting along very

well.

Mr. Henpeck (authoritatively)—Jones

should never have married when he did,

he was too young to realize the step he

was taking.

Mr. Henpeck—Yes, I know; but I like

the boy—we have many things in com-

mon.

WHAT A CYNIC MIGHT SAY.

[New York Post.]

We cast no aspersions on the sincerity

of the feelings that underlie the Anglo-

French understanding, but take the erec-

tion of a joint memorial to Wolfe and

Montcalm as a typical instance of en-

tente-building. In all this sinking of

Anglo-French misunderstanding, a cynic,

preferably a German cynic, might point

out that most of the time it is France

that has acquired the glory and the past,

while Great Britain has retained the solid

result to the present. Montcalm and

Wolfe vie in the world's admiration, but

Canada is British. Duplex and Lally-

Tollendal were fully as heroic as Clive.

Yet India is also British. Napoleon's sol-

diers opened Egypt to modern Europe,

but Lord Cromer and his successor are

both reputed to be Englishmen. The

Anglo-French understanding is sincere, be-

based on an inequality of giving and tak-

ing, which some philosophers assert is

characteristic of love in general.

BROWN'S LIBERALITY.

[Puck.]

"How does it happen that Brown is

treating everybody in sight?"

"Why, you see, years ago he presented

his wife with a little toy bank in which

the children could keep their pennies."

"I see; and now he finds himself the

head of a frugal, industrial family?"

"No; now he finds the bank."

A GREEK REVIVAL.

[Cleveland Plaindealer.]

"I went to see the revival of one of the

plays by an old Greek author who lived

such a dreadfully long time ago."

"Did you enjoy it?"

"Ever so much. It was awfully quaint

and the gods and goddesses were be-

coming. And I'm sure I never heard such

stately language."

"Who was the author?"

"Crypselas, I think."

COMBINATIONS OF SOCIALISM.

[New York Evening Post.]

In general we note a growing solidarity

between the uppermost and the lowermost

classes, as against the patient and undis-

tinguished middle class. We seldom hear

of a countess or duchess driven by

disgrace with her own caste into joining

the middle class, or a duke or duchess

becoming a socialist. On the contrary, we

hear of a Gorky or a Jack London rising

from among the submerged millions to

become a staid bourgeois. They always

adopt the manner of life of counts and

dukes, and their need of large retinues.

Such sympathy between the upper and

lower layers society may possibly be

explained on the analogy of the Irishman

who built his fence wider than he made

it high. In case the wind blew it over

it would be higher than ever. So a

socialist duke, after a social revolution,

might still be a very conspicuous person.

THE SCANDAL MANIA.

[Philadelphia North American.]

"A divorce case is always attractive to

women. They come to hear the grillroom

escapades—probably because they have

never been in one, and they want to sat-

isfy their curiosity about things of which

they know nothing," said Judge Harvey

Keeler, of Cleveland, discussing the

crowds in court during certain cases.

The attendance of women at the Thax-

trial certainly reflects little credit on the

sterior. To my mind there is no doubt

of the women of the United States be-

coming more morbid. What is taking

place in the mental appetites of the wo-

men of England I do not know—I know

there is a keen zest for the women of

this country for the morbid and the un-

healthy.

Why is this? Perhaps the strenuous

life drives them to seek strong stimu-

lants. Perhaps one would be criticised

were he to assert that the women are

losing their ancient softness and charm;

that they are becoming more masculine

in their tastes, more calloused to the

harsher things of life; that things which

formerly shocked them now fail to give

even a thrill, and books that were ta-

boozed years ago are now read without a

blush.

"I would not say that all women, much

less the larger percentage, have suffered.

But even many of the delicate and sensi-

tive women are thrilled pleasantly by

morbid details."

FIELDING'S UNIQUE RECORD.

[Monetary Times.]

Mr. Fielding, as a finance minister, is

an able figure. No other servant of

the crown, during the nineteenth century,

presented twelve budgets to the House of

Commons. His first budget showed a de-

ficit of about half a million dollars. The

next eleven have given him a total of

\$32,625,000 excess of revenue over ex-

penditure.

RENEWED CONFIDENCE OUT

WEST.

[Winnipeg Telegram.]

There is no profit in disguising the fact

that there has been in Winnipeg and

throughout the west during the past few

months a contraction of business and a

pretty general let-up in the pace the

west had acquired. This was due partly,

no doubt, to local conditions, but chiefly

to sentimental sentimentalism and dis-

turbances elsewhere. Every day brings

evidence that unfavorable conditions are

rapidly giving way to the old spirit of

confidence.

A SOLLUM THOUGHT.

[S. E. Kiser.]

The girls are always favored, no matter

where you go.

When girls act like their mothers they're

praised for doing so.