

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1923

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THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

While free trade is triumphant in Great Britain, as a result of the general elections, the political atmosphere is by no means clear. The leaders of each of the three great parties are re-elected, but neither has a sufficient majority to carry on without the aid of one of the others. The Liberal and Labor parties can overthrow the Baldwin Government, and without a working agreement neither of the former parties could remain at the head of affairs. There are all kinds of speculation as to what will happen. It would seem the natural thing for Mr. Baldwin to resign, since the policy with which he went to the country has been decisively defeated, but there is no assurance that Labor, which has been decisively defeated, could get enough support from the other parties to form a stable Government; while the Liberals would have even more difficulty because their numbers are smaller. The outcome of the elections also makes the situation in regard to foreign policy a difficult one, at a time when a firm policy is very greatly needed. There will be a very careful survey of the possibilities of coalition during the next few days, and nobody cares to hazard a prophecy. Labor has shown increased strength, but is still less than a third of the whole House. If to the Liberal party were added those Conservatives who believe in free trade, its numbers would be considerably increased, and both Liberals and Conservatives are opposed to the capital levy which is the chief plank of the Labor platform. Both Lloyd George and Asquith return to the House with greatly enhanced prestige. Before any stable coalition could be formed there would have to be a mutual abandonment of some planks in platforms, and of this there is no evidence in sight at the moment. Canada will be interested to learn what the effect of the Conservative defeat will be upon the proposed Imperial preference. General interest has been stimulated rather than lessened by the result of Thursday's contest.

SIR HIBBERT TUPPER.

One reads with interest that Sir Hibbert Tupper is one of the active promoters of the new Provincial Party in British Columbia politics. This party has adopted a constitution, and announces that removal of the professional politician is one of its aims. It proposes also "to secure and maintain good government in the province by the advocacy and support of the principles set out in the platform of the party; to suggest and promote the enactment of advanced legislation in the interests of the masses, and to secure the abolition of the evils of political patronage."

Major General A. D. McRae has been the leader of the movement, but is not seeking the permanent leadership. The press of the province has given considerable space to reports of meetings, and now that a constitution has been adopted it may be assumed that the third party movement will gain momentum. Thus far the old parties has shown no symptoms of alarm.

Sir Hibbert Tupper is a Canadian public man who has not realized the hopes of his old friends in Nova Scotia. Time was when Sir Hibbert was expected to share the fame of his distinguished father, Sir Charles Tupper. They were in public life together, and members of the Federal Government at the same time. Sir Hibbert was elected to represent Pictou in 1882, and remained its representative until 1904, although he had removed to Victoria, B. C., in 1897. In 1888 he became Minister of Marine and Fisheries, under Sir John Macdonald, and retained the office under the Abbott and Thompson administrations. In 1894 he was made Minister of Justice in the Bowell Government, but was one of the "nest of traitors" who resigned in 1896. The others returned to office but Sir Hibbert remained out, but later accepted the office of Solicitor General in his father's administration, which was defeated two months later. It was in recognition of his services as His Majesty's agent in the Behring Sea Fisheries Arbitration in Paris in 1893, while he was Minister of Marine and Fisheries that he was knighted. As Minister of Justice he was responsible for the Remedial Order in relation to separate schools in Manitoba. Since his removal to British Columbia, where he is the head of a legal firm, Sir Hibbert has only been heard from occasionally in the east. His last effort to influence the electors of his old constituency of Pictou in a recent general election, was not successful. He took an active part against prohibition in British Columbia, and it is now announced that he is one of the sponsors of a new political party which aims to destroy the "professional politician." It is a task of some magnitude.

A HEALTH LESSON.

The recent epidemic of smallpox in England directed attention very pointedly to two essentials. These are vaccination and a correct diagnosis of disease. There was an outbreak of smallpox in Gloucester early in the year. The local health officer refused to admit that the disease was smallpox, even after a medical officer from the Ministry of Health was sent down and declared it to be so. Another expert was sent, and confirmed the diagnosis of his predecessor. Other officers were sent by the ministry and by a house-to-house visitation established the fact that there was an epidemic. The local health officer remained unconvinced. Then a special hospital and vaccination stations were established and by taking vigorous measures the epidemic was overcome, but not before the contagion had spread to many other parts of the country. A London correspondent of the Journal of the American Medical Association writes:—

"In view of the neglect of vaccination (the percentage of children vaccinated in 1921 being 38 of the births, as compared with 80 in 1907), and the rarity of adult revaccinations, the Ministry of Health regards the situation with concern. It considers that, now that infection has been introduced, the only remedy is increased recourse to vaccination. In the House of Commons, Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health, uttered a serious warning. He said that, as the result of vaccination, smallpox was for some time almost extinct in this country. In 1917 there were only 7 cases, but this year, up to June 16, 1923, the disease was present in a mild form, but might soon develop into a more virulent one. Owing to the neglect of vaccination, they were faced with the possibility of a great epidemic dangerous to health and perhaps to life."

It is really surprising that such a condition of affairs should have been permitted to develop in England, and it is a grave warning to other countries that when such an epidemic threatens the health authorities should act with the utmost promptitude. We in New Brunswick have learned this lesson, and as a result none of the municipalities is called upon to shoulder such a bill of expense as in former years was caused by indifference to the spread of smallpox.

MUSSOLINI AND ITALY.

Baron Luigi Parrilli, of Milan, Italy, who is in New York, is an enthusiastic admirer of Premier Mussolini, whom he describes as the idol of the Italian people. He declares that Mussolini's wisdom and foresight have saved Italy. We quote:—

"The country is quiet, conditions are good, and every one is working. We hope, of course, for more prosperity than we are having now, but in comparison with the poverty that is common in many sections, Italy is truly fortunate. We have had no serious strikes, either; in fact, we have had no strikes at all. The people seem well satisfied and conditions are improving every day. This also is due to the wisdom of Mussolini, and I think can be traced directly back to Mussolini's choice of advisers. He is an expert in choosing the right man for the right place."

Baron Parrilli points out that Italy lost 600,000 men in the war, with over 1,000,000 wounded, fighting under terrible conditions amid Alpine snows, but adds that since the war the people have returned to their old occupation, agriculture, with a determination to win back to prosperity. To Mussolini's wisdom and firmness Baron attributes the tranquil state of the country. There can be no doubt that the Italian Premier, while he has not always made the most favorable impression in his relations with other nations, understands very thoroughly the psychology of Italy and has been able to turn that knowledge to account for the country's good.

Major M. J. O'Brien of Ottawa, representing the British Immigration and Colonization Association, said in Toronto this week that he expected to see 50,000 boys brought to Canada in 1924 from the Mother Country, and that there were 2,000,000 boys there with a little prospect of success, of whom a large number could be brought to Canada. Boys of good physical and mental equipment would undoubtedly prove a good asset, to the extent that they could be absorbed into productive industry. This latter should be guaranteed, however, before they come.

That was a striking appeal Mr. Lloyd George made to the people of London on the eve of the election. He said:—"London, the greatest city in the world, is in danger. She lives by trade as no other city in the world lives by it and trade, if it is to grow,

must be free. London does one-third of the total overseas trade of Great Britain and receives more than one-third of her imports. On the basis of this great trade, itself a gift of free trade, London has become the financial centre of the whole world and the source of the development of our mighty Empire. To limit these activities by tariffs would deal a deadly blow at the work and wages of the citizens of London." London apparently shared the views of the speaker. It seems to have gone strongly for free trade.

Press Comment

THE CAPITAL LEVY.

(Ottawa Journal.)

The Capital Levy, proposed by the British Labor Party for England, and which is not without supporters in Canada, has been enacted or proposed in the following countries: Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Greece, and Switzerland. In practically every case it has wrought the greatest harm.

In Czechoslovakia, where the levy was applied partially as a tax on income, it produced practically nothing, and after one year's trial, President Masaryk said: "I am not satisfied with the result. The yield was less than expected, the money seemed to disappear."

In Italy, where it was established by Signor Schauer (before the advent of Mussolini) it produced great difficulties and injustices; and the yield has fallen far below expectation.

In Hungary the Capital Levy was tried as a desperate remedy for financial distress, but it has failed completely, and the Hungarian Government, following the example of Austria, is now applying to the League of Nations for help.

In Greece, where the levy was introduced this year, the measure has been followed by a severe depreciation of currency, by a dislocation of industry, and by growing public protest. Its repeal is being looked forward to.

In Switzerland, mere proposal of the levy resulted in a financial panic with gigantic withdrawals from the banks and an almost total loss of confidence in securities. Foreign confidence in Switzerland decreased, and the public, fearful of the consequences, rejected the proposal by a majority of 750,000.

The truth is that the Capital Levy violates the root principle of taxation, which is that income shall be taxed, not the capital which produces it. Its nature is confiscatory; its imposition is impracticable; and it is a penalty on saving. The United States Committee on War Finance, which considered the question fully in 1918, thus summed up its judgment of it:—

"Such a measure has no proper place in a financial plan for a country in the position of the United States. As an alternative to repudiation in a country on the verge of bankruptcy something can be said for the plan. For the nation solvent and unembarrassed it possesses no attraction, and may involve the gravest consequences."

SOUTH DAKOTA FOR COOLIDGE

(New York Herald)

Two weeks ago, in the South Dakota Presidential primaries, President Coolidge made a showing which surprised the backers of Hiram Johnson. How large an advantage Mr. Coolidge had over the California Senator was not perfectly evident until last Tuesday night, when the South Dakota Republicans held their caucus convention. Then the President showed a strength of 50,779 to Senator Johnson's 27,840.

That Calvin Coolidge, who has been prominent in the Presidential field since August only, should give a two to one beating to Hiram Johnson in one of the States where the Californian was supposed to be a favorite is something which will make the old fashioned politicians sit up and think. The conservative has defeated the radical in a radical State—and has done it apparently without a political machine or an effort.

What does the South Dakota result mean? For one thing, judging from the speeches at the proposal convention, it means that the South Dakota Republicans regard Mr. Coolidge as a man more of the people than the eloquent Hiram. The President was described as "a farmer by who had done everything in his power for the farmer." The brotherhood of the soil is powerful.

But there are broader reasons for the Coolidge victory; reasons which may become more and more evident as the 1924 contest grows older. The President has undoubtedly taken a grip on the imagination of the American people. They regard him as a man who sees right, thinks right and acts right.

CHRISTMAS BUYING.

(Vancouver Sun.)

People who realize the pleasure of unhampered shopping will commence their Christmas buying this week. Early Christmas shopping is desirable for three reasons:—

1. It gives the buyers a better chance to exercise discrimination in purchasing.
2. It takes the rush burden off store employees.
3. It makes a better balance of trade for the merchants; enabling them to keep up with their bills and thus maintain the steady circulation of money in the city.

But if you want to shop early you will have to start now. If you wait until next week you won't be early.

AUSTRIA BRIGHTENS.

(Saskatoon Star.)

The following despatch from Vienna deserves attention:—
"The Austrian Government's proposed budget for 1924, presented to the National Assembly yesterday, shows estimated expenses of 9,192,000,000 crowns, with a deficit of 897,000,000 crowns, which is one-third of last year's deficit and due entirely to the railroads."

"The Government plans to reduce the deficit to 147,000,000, in compliance with the estimates of the League of Nations' financial delegation. This is taken to foreshadow a balanced budget in 1925."

Europe, according to many, is going to the dogs. Yet Austria's budget for 1924 shows a deficit only one-third as large as that of last year. Chaos is sweeping the Old World, but Austria

MR. DOOLEY ON "THE SERENADE"

By FINLEY PETER DUNNE

"By dad, if it wasn't for that there Molly Donahue," said Mr. Dooley to Mr. McKenna, "half the life'd be gone out of this neighborhood."

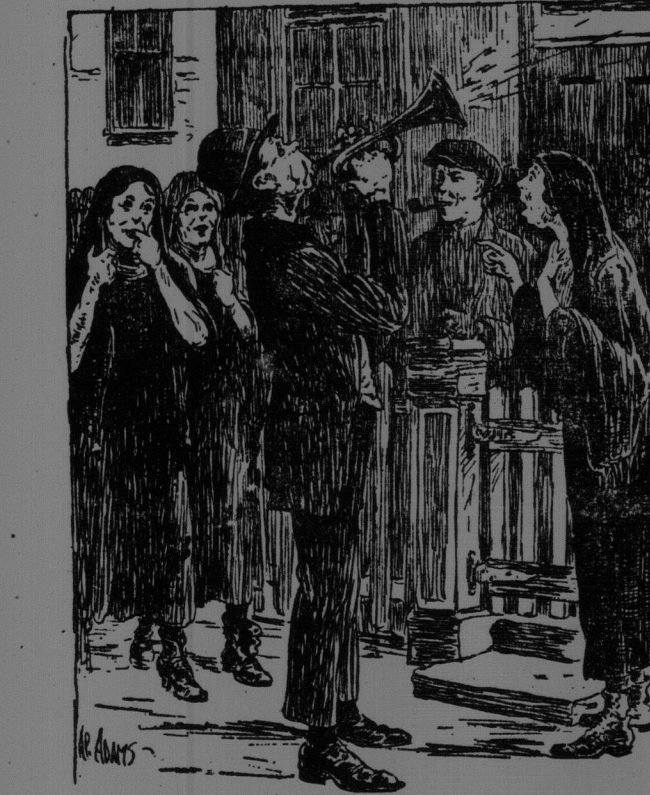
"What has Molly Donahue been doing?" asked Mr. McKenna.

"She has been causin' Felix Plendergast to be sent to the Sisters in Mercy Hospital with inflammatory rheumatism."

"You know Felix. He is a musical janius. Before he was ten years old

"Las' week Felix pulled himself together, an' wint up to the roof again. He took his cornet with him in a green bag; an' when he got in front of Donahue's house, he outs with 'th' horn, an' begins to play."

"Well, sir, at the first note half the block was in 'th' street. Women come from their houses, with their shawls on their heads; an' all 'th' forty-fives games was broke up be raisin' up 'th' lads lavin' 'fr to hear the music."



"HE WINT ALONG SLENDLY, TILL HE CAME TO 'TH' FADE FROM HIS HEART, AN' THIN HE BROKE."

he had me mind distracted be playin' 'fr to serrynde Molly Donahue, 'th' corner near me bedroom window.

"He started on 'th' ol' favor-ite, 'Th' Valse 'Avoca', an' near 'fr my eye 'th' crowd had heard him practicin' it! He wint along splendid till he come to 'shall fade 'fr me heart', an' thin he broke."

"'Thy again,' says 'th' crowd; an' he started over. He done no better on 'th' second while. 'Niver say die heart', says 'th' crowd. 'Go after it. We're all with ye."

"At that 'th' poor, deluded lunk tackled it again; an' 'th' crowd yelled: 'Fist it up! There ye go! No, he bins, he fell at 'th' last jump! An', by dad, though he thrived 'fr half an hour, he did not land 'th' 'shall fade 'fr me heart'."

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CHEER UP!

(Lillian Gard in Tit-Bits (London).) Why double other people's woes by looking grim and gray? Let's whistle up a hope or two to chase the fears away!

So—what's the use of envying the feast we haven't got? Let's count the currents in our buns—'twill cheer us up a lot.

We won't talk glibly, dimly, of trouble, grief, and loss—We'll chat of blessings, thankfully, and hide each petty cross.

For don't we know—of course we do—Life must have tracks of care? But still it has some sunny smiles—Thank God that they are there!

IN LIGHTER VEIN.

Delightful News.
As the paring instructions were being given, the fresh young salesman picked up his grip and started on his initial trip. "Good luck to you," said his chief, "wire us important news."

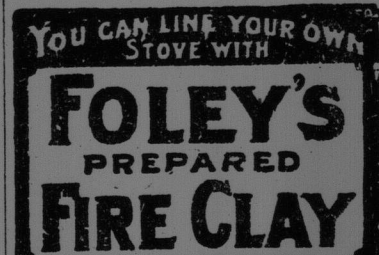
The following day this message was received: "Reached here safely, good room with bath, feeling fine."

The manager wired back: "So glad, love and kisses, good-bye."—Forbes.

Only an Afterthought.
Gardener's Boy—Your new motor-mower's in the lake, mum.

Mistress—Good gracious, what on earth were you doing to let—
Gardener's Boy—It wasn't me, mum. The gardener were drivin' and 'e's with it now.—Punch, London.

A Wise Suggestion.
The Maid—I've often wondered, mum, why you don't get rid of that piano and have the wireless—look what a lot of dustin' it'd save.—London Opinion.



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12-10

HOLD UP TREES AND COLLECT STUMPAGE

Lands and Mines Department Intercepts Christmas Trees on Way to U. S.

Fredericton, Dec. 7.—The Department of Lands and Mines have held up a shipment of four carloads of Christmas trees which were being shipped from Canterbury Station to the United States, and the result was the collection of stumps on one of the carload lots which had been cut on Crown lands. This is the first instance in which such action has been taken.

AUTO.

The luxuries of yesterday are the necessities of today. The auto, for instance, was clearly a luxury when first brought on the market. Now it is about 50 per cent. a necessity, and daily more so.

A poll by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce shows that out of 62,100 autos, 59 are used daily driving to work, 46 are used daily, and 86 occasionally in conducting business, and 88 are used for shopping.

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THE time has passed when gifts were selected haphazardly without giving thought to appropriateness, without regard to usefulness, without proof of durability, without a realization of intrinsic values.

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Electrical Gifts, the products of our best manufacturers, indicative of proven quality and value, are available in such great variety that wise gift buyers are confining themselves to electrical ones for every purpose and person; family relations—from baby to grandfathers; business associates and customers; and all others whom they particularly wish to please.

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