

THE HAMILTON TIMES

THURSDAY, OCT. 7, 1909.

KING EDWARD'S VIEW.

We hear a good deal about the "poor dukies" who are to be impoverished by Mr. Lloyd George's budget taxes taking for the state 20 per cent. of the unearned increment—the amount added to their land values by the public without any outlay by the owners. For a while we were assured that this budget was to prove the ruin of the Liberal Government. The Lords were to reject it and force the Government to go to the country, when the voters would overwhelm it. Later there was some hesitation about carrying out this programme, and amendment was talked of. Then the Commons made it clear that amendment would not be accepted, and then it was discovered that the Lords disliked to interfere in financial matters and would like to avoid a fight with the Commons. Recently the policy of the Unionists has been to make it appear that the leaders of the aristocratic chamber would like to smooth the way for the budget, but it was doubtful if they could keep their followers in line. The latest phase of the budget dispute presents the Unionists, as seeking to use the Royal influence to "save their faces" and avert the fight with the Commons, which they now realize must prove disastrous to the prestige of the Lords.

The public is informed that His Majesty is very desirous of seeing the budget accepted, and that the Lords are loyally anxious to meet his views. The public laughs and winks the other eye. Of course King Edward is too wise and too great a respecter of constitutional usage to so much as give a hint of his views in this crisis. The Lords, however, in seeking to break their fall by classing the King with the friends of the people do not probably wrong him. It will be remembered that as long ago as 1885, King Edward, then Prince of Wales, sat as a member of a Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes of the United Kingdom. From the report which he signed we may legitimately infer his view as to some matters affecting Lloyd George's budget.

"At present land available for building in the neighborhood of our populous centres, though its capital value is very great, is probably producing a small yearly return until it is let for building. The owners can thus afford to keep their land out of the market and to part with only small quantities, so as to raise the price beyond the natural monopoly of price which the land would command by its position. Meanwhile the general expenditure of the town on improvements is increasing the value of their property. If this land was rated at, say, 4 per cent. on its selling value, the owners would have a more direct incentive to part with it to those who are desirous of building, and a two-fold advantage would result to the community. First, all the valuable property would contribute to the rates, and thus the burden on the occupiers could be diminished by the increase in the rateable property. Secondly, the owners of the building land would be forced to offer their land for sale, and thus their competition with one another would bring down the price of building land and so diminish the taxes in the shape of ground rent, on price paid for land which is now levied on urban enterprise by adjacent landowners—a tax he is remembered, which is no recompense for any industry or expenditure on their part, but is the natural result of the industry and activity of the townspeople themselves."

The Commission also added that it "would recommend that these matters should be included in legislation when the law of rating comes to be dealt with in Parliament." If King Edward as Prince of Wales in 1885 held these views, we may reasonably conclude that the passage of Lloyd George's budget will give King Edward as sovereign in 1909 no pain. It is not hard to see why the peers find little chance of comfort from Royalty in a struggle with the Commons over such a question.

COOK VS. PEARY.

The New York Herald, which has been exploiting Dr. Cook as a money-making scheme, and which actually palmed off "polar" pictures of a spurious character on its readers in the course of its campaign, thus editorially speaks of Mr. Peary's arrival at the Hudson-Fulton celebration in New York:

"There was something absolutely pathetic in the cheerless reception given to Mr. Peary on his arrival yesterday. Although the crowd was large, and the city had been widely published, there was nobody to greet him except a few personal friends—no popular demonstration of any sort. The Herald's news report, however, was given a great display head, telling of 'the tremendous greeting to Mr. Peary and his ship,' and stating that they were 'the centre of interest.' The reporter relates that:

"As the vessel moved up the river Mr. Peary received an enthusiastic reception all along the route. With his wife by his side on the bridge he was easily the most conspicuous figure in the parade. All the way land and water vied with each other sending their cheers of congratulations to the black ship whereon the tall military looking man smiled back his answer to their greetings."

While excursion steamboats, war ship, private yacht, launch and torpedo boat whistled and saluted the Roosevelt her commander, Captain Bartlett, was at work incessantly with the whistle cord answering the salutes of passing craft. Mrs. Peary was delighted with the welcome given to her husband by the marine craft. She smiled back her happiness in response to the cheers, whether from a battleship or from a saucy launch. She had been deeply apprehensive that the Cook controversy might chill the greeting to her husband, but her fears were dispelled when the Cetus, the first of the long line of crowded excursion steamboats to pass the Roosevelt, threw an echoing volley of huzzas and cries of "Peary! Peary!" across the water to the bridge where she and Mr. Peary stood.

It is pitiful that a great newspaper

like the New York Herald should stoop to that sort of work to discredit Peary and boom Cook. The person who wishes to form a correct judgment on this Cook-Peary controversy will do well not to trust to the statements of interested partisans. There is no hurry. Wait for all the facts and the careful sifting of unbiased scientists with no fat profits from copyright selling to influence their judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Will the proposed merger of steel companies give us cheaper steel?

That British Columbia mining disaster proves to be worse than first reported. The death list is now 32.

A Yankee contemporary lays down the rule: "The less civilization, the more noise." What about the Fourth of July?

Those Hydro aldermen do not appear to be doing much to forward the "Build-up-Hamilton" policy. Too busy knocking Hamilton concerns.

J. M. Barrie, the Scottish author, is suing for divorce. He will now have subject matter for a new story which may take him out of the old rut.

The increase in Toronto's population this year has been much less than usual. The assessors' returns give it as 6,373. The addition of new territory has added 17,780.

Welland and Toronto are evidently quite willing that the fight of Hamilton's internal enemies against Hamilton concerns should go on, while they rope in the new industries.

Friends are very useful things to have at call. But it is not wise to flout them three hundred and sixty-four days in the year and expect to use them the three hundred and sixty-fifth.

The purchase of the Fitch Hotel on the Beach road will enable the city to do away with all undesirable buildings near the filtering basins, and remove any obstructions to their future enlargement.

The Unprincipled One of the Hamilton Herald congratulates himself that Mayor McLaren has not the power of the Sultan of Morocco. It is a case of conscience. The Herald need fear nothing so much as its deserts.

Toronto Street Railway agreement is now yielding it about half a million dollars a year. Indianapolis gets \$1,160,000 for its 34-year franchise, which covers radial railways as well. And still Toronto is not satisfied. Hoggish, as usual.

Hearst has again been nominated by his admirers as a candidate for the mayoralty of New York. Hearst is a perennial candidate for something; but the people as yet have refused to shoulder such a burden.

The Dominion Parliament has been called to meet on Thursday, Nov. 11. The consideration of the co-operative defence scheme is now engaging the Cabinet, and it will probably be one of the principal features of the coming session.

That "leashed wire" Metchnikoff story is somewhat overripe—perhaps a few months "delayed in transmission." But, then, as human life is to be prolonged, as is Methuselah, what matters it if the telegraph man sleep a few months?

The Herald threatens the Mayor with its abuse unless he does as it wishes. Well, abuse by the Herald is bad, we all know; but disgusting as the job may be, even a skunk cannot be allowed to rule a community; somebody must deal with it.

The Hydro organ wants to saddle Hamilton with the cost of a power line from Dundas to the city, and fiercely assails the Mayor and the aldermen who would have the Hydro Commission build it, as it builds for other places. Talk about Judas, after that!

A Pittsburg paper has held a voting contest and decided by about 60,000 votes that Cook discovered the North Pole. Now it might take a vote to prove that a straight line is not the shortest distance between two given points. Great is majority!

A Detroit saloon man named Berger wants a license for a place at the corner of Woodward and Charlotte avenues, directly opposite to a church. He argues that the church should not be afraid of being corrupted by the saloon; it might even want to be near it "that it might do the saloon good!"

The Detroit wholesalers have passed a resolution condemning the United States course in resorting to tariff discrimination against Canada, and in favor of more reasonable trade relations. The threatened retaliation is alleged to be merely in the interests of the United States Paper Trust.

Mr. Prowse, Liberal M. P. from Queen's, P. E. I., has been confirmed in his seat, the election petition against him being dismissed with costs. The Chief Justice took occasion to remark that his election was singularly free from any violation of the law and a remarkably clean contest.

In a recent sermon a minister at Grace Bay, N. S., created some sensation by stating that if coal miners at work did not join the strikers and quit the mines there would be a disastrous explosion. Has he knowledge of criminal intent, or was he simply endeavor-

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HAMILTON

ing to scare the workers for purposes of his own?

The Herald describes the efforts of the aldermen to safeguard Hamilton interests in a contract with the Hydro-Electric Commission as "grubbing for defects in the contract." Ah! but these aldermen were looking after the city's good; the Herald was doing a very different work. The stipulations contended for are all in the city's interest, and that is why the Judas organ abuses those who stand by them.

The Herald is naturally very angry at Mayor McLaren, and it threatens him with still greater abuse than it has yet visited upon him. It is capable of any meanness, no doubt, but the Mayor is proof against its malignity. As for its squealing, that will not hurt. Unpleasant as may be the screams of the degraded wretch under the lash at the triangle, they break no bones. And the flogged one is not to be further punished because he bellows, and screams with rage and pain.

A very beautiful quarto volume has been published by the New York Commercial as a historical souvenir of the Hudson-Fulton celebration. It is illustrated with portraits of Hudson and Fulton and many reproductions of quaint and beautiful wood cuts of their times. Some of these have a peculiar interest to those who are acquainted with New York and its environs of the present time. There is much interesting historical matter in the volume, and the contrast between the shipping and the buildings of the earlier time and the levitans and skyscrapers of the present, is striking indeed. As a work of reference, the chronological record of important events in New York history makes the volume one well worthy of preservation.

The propriety of a Judge on the bench expressing opinions, sapient or otherwise, on every subject that occurs to him is to be questioned. According to the Toronto World, Chief Justice Meredith a few days ago went out of his way to reflect in a doubtful or depreciatory manner upon the stability of our Ontario trust companies. This, we think, was ill-advised, unjustifiable and probably harmful. The trust companies of Ontario do a great work, and they have an excellent record. We have before us the case of Saginaw trustees who made a bad investment of \$10,000 of a legacy, losing it entirely. They have been ordered to make good the amount. But can they? Had a trust company so erred, all its capital would have been security. Judges should be careful of what they say. But even Jove is said to nod sometimes.

An expert safe-breaker, Sam Hawley, known as "Smooth Sam," was captured in Chicago recently, he having indulged in too much liquor and lost his caution. He gave the following as the rules of his "business":

You must have nerve; be resourceful, too. Let booze alone when a "job" is on. Have plenty of soap. You need it to crack a safe. Eat it when you are caught and you can get sick.

Always carry a pair of steel files. The best way is to sew them in your coat lapels. Have a revolver, but don't use it unless you are sure you can get away afterwards.

Throw your gun away when you are caught red-handed.

Keep out of sight days, and don't make new friends.

Conceal your nitro-glycerine, soap, drills, and punches when you are about to do a "trick," but don't walk about the streets with them bulging out of your pockets.

Find out the job before you do it; it pays to play safe.

Don't give a "pull" away. If you are caught, stand the gaff and don't holler.

Our Exchanges

DEODORIZE.

(Brookville Recorder.)

Apparently the Peterboro Tories ought to secure a whole cargo of antiseptics.

JAIL THE TORY PERJURERS.

(Peterboro Review.)

All Canada demands an official governmental inquiry into the electoral condition of West Peterboro.

SUICIDE A COWARD.

(Toronto Star.)

In many cases suicide is the choice of cowardice. A man finds it easier to die than live; easier to quit than fight on.

A BIG JOB.

(Galt Reformer.)

The 100,000 Club of Hamilton has its work cut out for it. To jump from 70,000 to 100,000 of a population in three years, the ambition of the club, will mean some hustling.

LOCKED HER UP.

(Grimby Independent.)

The usual rush took place to Hamilton on Monday and Tuesday, when Stanley Mills & Co. held their semi-annual excursion. There was one woman left in Grimby on Monday. That was my wife. I had her locked up.

ALL BRITISH.

(Toronto News.)

Of nearly 4,000 vessels that passed through the Suez canal last year, only one flew the American flag. The other 3,999 were nearly all British. When the Panama canal opens the story will be approximately the same.

WILL DROP IT.

(London Advertiser.)

According to the trial judges, the petition to unseat Mr. Stratton was based upon purchased evidence. It is likely our Conservative contemporaries who have been calling upon the Attorney-General to prosecute somebody, will let the matter drop.

APPENDICITIS.

(Montreal Gazette.)

Doctors who condemn surgical operations in cases of appendicitis are turning up with frequency these days. Practices in medicine change like other things. Blood-letting was once frequently resorted to; now it is rare. It may be that it will go out of fashion in connection with the fashionable disease of this age also.

DON'T WORRY.

(Montreal Witness.)

We do not suppose that the impact of a comet would mean much more than a shower of fine star dust. There are always people, however, who spend their days in terror of one sort or another, and these will feel better now that the astronomers have corrected their calculations and given out the assurance that Halley's comet is not going to collide with this earth, as it will come no nearer to us than thirteen million miles.

PRINCIPAL WEDDED.

(Special Despatch to the Times.)

St. Catharines, Ont., Oct. 7.—John Henderson, M. A., and Mrs. Catherine Tuckett were quietly married at Knox Church manse last evening by Rev. Dr. George H. Smith, and left almost immediately for a six months' trip to Scotland. Mr. Henderson was for many years Principal of the Collegiate Institute, retiring at midsummer.

SICK IN HOSPITAL.

(Special Despatch to the Times.)

St. Catharines, Oct. 7.—Word was received yesterday at Thorold that James Daley, second son of Mrs. John Daley, who dropped dead while visiting the home of a bereaved neighbor on Tuesday evening, had been seriously injured in a critical condition. Later reports, however, were of a more encouraging nature.

The German Emperor has lately installed bath tubs in the homes of the tenants on his estates. It is a combination affair, which can be used for bathing purposes, as a wash-tub and as a dining table.

J. M. BARRIE

Te Petition For Divorce From His Actress Wife.

Were Supposed to be a Devoted Couple—Friends Shocked.

London, Oct. 7.—J. M. Barrie, the novelist, will petition for a divorce at the coming session of the divorce division of the High Court of Justice. He married in 1894 Mary Antell, an actress.

SHOCKED FRIENDS.

New York, Oct. 7.—The news of J. M. Barrie's divorce suit, contained in a cable despatch from London last night, comes as a great shock to persons who had personal acquaintance with the Scottish author and playwright. The idea of divorce in connection with the author of "When a Man's Single" seemed incongruous and painful. Mrs. Barrie's divorce suit, contained in a cable despatch from London last night, comes as a great shock to persons who had personal acquaintance with the Scottish author and playwright. The idea of divorce in connection with the author of "When a Man's Single" seemed incongruous and painful. Mrs. Barrie's divorce suit, contained in a cable despatch from London last night, comes as a great shock to persons who had personal acquaintance with the Scottish author and playwright. The idea of divorce in connection with the author of "When a Man's Single" seemed incongruous and painful. 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