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## Labor Ready for an Election?

The Labor government in Britain is a minority force, and has held power because it has received Liberal support on many occasions, and also because neither Liberals nor Conservatives have been able to see how they would be any better off if an election did take place.

The government has on several occasions had to accept amendments to its measures, or withdraw them, but it has never been roughly enough treated to force it to take the case to the voters.

Unless political signs are all wrong, this condition is not going to prevail when it comes to consideration of the Anglo-Russian pact. The government is for it, Conservatives and most of the Liberals are against it, and the government announces that it is prepared to stand or fall by the fate of the issue.

It has been apparent for some time that the present state of affairs could not be carried on indefinitely—it would be a dangerous precedent for responsible government if they were. There must remain the test of the power of a government to command a majority vote to back its policies. If it is defeated then the government cannot show cause for continuing in office.

The announcement by cabinet ministers that the Labor party will go to the country if the government is defeated on the Russian-Anglo pact means that it considers itself strong enough in the saddle to challenge Liberals and Conservatives to defeat it in the Commons and go to the country as a result.

Liberals and Conservatives have not improved their standing since the last contest, when the Baldwin government met defeat. It has been Ramsay MacDonald, more than any other man who has given leadership in recent months. His whole aim has been to get the nations of Europe on a basis of understanding; to make it possible for them to go to work. It is to MacDonald's credit that foreign troops have left the Ruhr; to his credit more than any other public man that the Dawes plan is in operation, and that there is the best of feeling between England and France. He has used his prestige as premier and Britain to good advantage, and he has gone farther than the world expected from the leader of a Labor government. All these incidents have brought prestige to his party, and for that reason it will have a stronger appeal to the electors.

The Liberals are still in two camps under two leaders. A dual leadership is not desirable, but Lloyd George and Asquith have not found it possible to merge their followings or eliminate their differences. Nor can the Conservatives claim greater strength—they are where they were.

It will be interesting to watch the developments of the parliamentary session in London which begins the end of this month. The political weathercock in Britain shows the wind blowing in the direction of a general election.

## A Bad Place to Practice.

The despatches of the day tell of two fatal accidents, one victim a young man of 18, the other a girl of 19, both from shotguns while out on duck shooting trips.

It is early in the season to read of these fatalities, and the circumstances around them were probably typical of other duck shooting parties.

The average young person in a city knows very little about a shotgun. Both the victims in yesterday's accidents were city residents. A shotgun is something not used in a city; it is a weapon to be loaded and discharged. It has in it the power to kill, and must be carefully handled. We know all these things, yet when a person picks up a shotgun in 99 cases out of 100 he does so as a stranger.

So when these duck shooting parties set out in the fall, many of the participants are novices. They are not old hands with a gun, yet they do not hesitate to go along and carry the loaded gun, crawl through fences with it, toss it into the rowboat, or trail it along the ground.

That is the reason why people lose their lives in the bush when out shooting. It is seldom that the experienced trapper gets into trouble. He knows how, and there are things the ten-day shooter will do that the old trapper would regard as too dangerous.

For those who feel that they must get out and shoot something:

(1) Do you know anything and everything about a gun?

(2) Are you quite sure that your presence in the bush with a loaded gun is not a danger to the lives of others?

Unless you can satisfy yourself on the answer to these queries, stay home.

## A Question For United States.

United States was all agog yesterday in a demonstration of its power. Defence Day it was called, and the manpower of the nation was put on parade. In New York State alone 425 cities and towns had programs of a military nature, and the business was carried on elsewhere on a similar scale.

In the usual course of events no fault can be found with national preparedness, or with a movement that seeks to take stock of the manpower of the country, and by that judge the manner in which it might be expected to respond in case a national crisis arose.

From this angle Defence Day in United States could be justified. It was a harmless

enough gesture in itself, but will the rest of the world so regard it?

For weeks past the nations of Europe, who know more about military manoeuvres than United States can learn in years to come, have been moving in another direction. Their goal has been the bringing to pass of an understanding between nations that will make war difficult. The leading statesmen of these powers have risked their all in an effort to batter down the suspicion that calls for a sword and the fear that formerly found its only safety in a bayonet.

The problem for United States to consider is whether its influence and power—for it has both—are going to be used to further the aims of these negotiating nations, or be dissipated in some other direction.

Will Europe understand aright the reason why United States had a Defence Day, or will the beating of drums, the blowing of bugles and the barking of military commands be misunderstood? Will the battle-scarred nations of Europe be persuaded that they are right in pursuing ways of peace, and discussing problems of compulsory arbitration and disarmament, while United States puts more vigor into a military demonstration than it ever has into friendship for the League of Nations?

United States should think seriously on this matter. It is a great nation, powerful, financially strong and rich in manpower and natural resources. Right now it can throw its power into the scales with the nations at Geneva, or it can continue its military gestures under whatever disguise suits it.

Is the holding of a national Defence Day the answer of United States to the efforts of Europe's statesmen to strengthen the arm of the League of Nations?

## Romance is Not Dead.

Mr. Winthrop, many times a millionaire, lives on 200 acres in an exclusive district near Lennox, Mass. On this broad expanse of land he had many things, houses, barns, garages, chicken runs, and all that.

He had two daughters, one a sweet thing of 21, and the other over whom 31 summers had sped. He had a chauffeur and a bright young man as a chicken expert. Of course there were suitors, sons of families with great old family trees behind them. The chauffeur and the chicken expert had no family trees to boast of. They came from the great mulberry patch, the source of the finest crop in the world, the common people. What they lacked in ancestral qualifications they made up in ardor. As the chauffeur chafed he wooed the elder daughter, and as the chicken expert experted he gave heed to the heiress of 21. While other suitors twanged on a zither these two proposed an elopement. They were always a couple of laps ahead, and an elopement it was.

The next step is always to seek the forgiveness of an outraged father. How well all this would flow from the nimble fingers of a popular novelist. Of course he would pace the floor—they always do that in the books. And then he would say, "Without a copper I will cut them off." He would refuse to see reporters, and the household would be walking on tiptoe just as though the paregoric had taken the wind off the baby's stomach and it had gone to sleep for the first time in 17 hours.

Mr. Winthrop has relented—a little bit. He will forgive the daughters, but as for the sons-in-law they can park themselves outside the premises. He has gone half-way, but is not ready to take the final gulp and make the family circle whole and happy.

We wish Mr. Winthrop would hustle along and close the incident. The world loves romance, with its tears of forgiveness, but it doesn't like waiting for it too long. Action, that's it, action is what is necessary on the part of the wealthy Winthrop. "Heaven bless you children." There it is, Mr. Winthrop. Now hustle along and say it out loud—you've been on the front page long enough.

## Note and Comment.

It is denied that the Prince of Wales attended a prize fight in New York. The prince got his black eye playing polo.

Home Bank trial brought out a statement by an accountant that is almost as old as time itself. It is short and eloquent: "If I had known."

School for bakers will be built at the O. A. C. in Guelph. Over the front door will be engraved a rolling pin and a portrait of a contented husband.

Chinese are fleeing so they will not be forced into the armies again. Let's see, what is that verse: "He who fights and runs away lives to run some other day."

London has no quarrel with Toronto about the excellence of its national exhibition, but just the same we can't help feeling that Toronto scooped up all the fine weather in sight.

Toronto lady swallowed a pen nib 30 years ago and had it taken out of her foot a few days ago. The invention of the fountain pen is going to spoil that kind of cases for the surgeons.

Some of the labor men of Edmonton who are ready to back a communist for legislative honors are deliberately playing with fire. They have the warning of the sanest labor leaders in the world that they will get scorched.

An engineer says there is enough power in a gallon of gas to run a car 450 miles, the trouble being that too much is wasted at present. The most eloquent auto salesman on record never claimed 450 miles to the gallon. Think of the talking points of the future.

Premier MacDonald has a faculty for coining phrases in a way that is as interesting as forceful. Here is one: "To make the great changes needed by humanity a man must work humbly, patiently and faithfully, dealing with the harvest as it ripens and never cutting green corn."

## Rarebits By Rex

## THE BASHFUL LOVER.

Here the songbirds trilling,  
Doves are cooing, billing,  
Nature's notes are thrilling  
On her golden lute.  
The rose awakes and blushes,  
A country maiden flushes,  
Little plants and rushes  
Shoot.

The air is full of ringing,  
Daffodils are springing,  
All the world is singing,  
You alone are mute.  
Why do you delay it?  
Love's a game—let's play it,  
Don't be shy, just say it—  
Shoot!

"Women's clubs," says an editorial, "are responsible for many modern reforms." And some married men tell us they are also responsible for many modern black eyes.

The Wild Bull of the Pampas is now the contented cow of the pasture.

Six hundred Ford cars were lined outside the Fair Grounds last night. And somebody had the nerve to call it the far-flung rattle line.

A local man broke a quart bottle on the sidewalk just as he was about to pour himself a drink. He now knows that there is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.

When a man is forced by his wife to wash his own collars it means that their size is 12½.

## BALLOTS.

When all the waters are going dry  
And all the ditches the wets defy  
The flaming billboard colors cry  
Amid the frenzy and the fuss  
Mark your ballot thus: X.

And when election day draws nigh,  
The same old crowd raise the age-old cry  
We'll have another mayor—or die.  
You're off to the polls in a hired bus.  
Mark your ballot thus: X.

Sweetheart, such stuff is not for me;  
What I want most is your company,  
And failing that, may I ask you just  
Terminate your letters thus: X.  
—By Alexander Dalrymple.

"Banana Products Stook Active."—Headline. We hope the speculators don't slip up on it.

Postponement of the Chinese war because of rain was a timely precaution. You never know when one of the warriors might fall and sprain a finger.

Pirpo claims he lost the fight because he failed to concentrate. Or was it that he just lacked Wills power?

## The Old Fall Fair

The big fall fairs have had their fling, more gorgeous than a red necktie, with whoppy cows of pedigree, with strings of prizes two feet high. And now we come into the spot more sweetened than a June day air, the time when bills tell us the dates of each succeeding country fair.

Ah well I mind when once I dwell near Hank and not so far from Joe, how when the country fair come round we'd squint along the squash we'd grow, and feed one likely-looking chap until he was a monstrous thing—he'd go with turnips, spuds and corn, a headin' up our fall fair string.

While Hank's folks was to stop and chat with women folks and men, and joke about a-seein' Ed a-drivin' down concession ten.

They didn't have no circus then whene'er they held a country fair, no barkin' 'bout the divin' girls, no hot dogs smellin' up the air.

The whole place had three buildin's on, a ticket office at the gate, a grandstand with no cover on, the crystal palace, hall of state. Why them what took their chickens in they stacked the boxes in a row, the way they told the hens from geese was when the rooster starts to crow.

Of course it wasn't up-to-date like what they have in fairs today, but we could show just how hogs fared on corn cobs, swill and cans of whey.

Yes, let us keep the old fall fair, more wholesome than boiled artichokes, where folks talk to the other folks.—ARK.

## Press Comment

## One For the Doctors.

We'd have more faith in this scheme of hiring a doctor to keep you well if doctors never got sick.—Duluth Herald.

## Just Remember This.

If her lips say "No," but her eyes say "Yes," the eyes have it.—San Francisco Bulletin.

## Far-Seeing Henry.

Henry Ford is trying to get people to leave the cities. He knows what most of 'em will travel in when they go.—New York Herald-Tribune.

## The Days of Preparedness.

It will soon be time to get last winter's ashes out of the cellar to make room for the new pile.—Hamilton Spectator.

## The Need of the Hour.

What this country really needs, in the judgment of the fellow we met on the street, is more four-wheel brakes and fewer self-starters.—San Francisco Bulletin.

## But It's Not Contagious.

Someone who did not like Hon. Mr. Meighen's Stratford speech is calling blue ruin talk "Meighengitis."—Kitchener Record.

## Dr. Frank Crane

## EDUCATION.

According to Dr. A. Duncan Yokum, professor of educational research of the University of Pennsylvania, the radio, the motion picture and the automobile have turned educational methods upside down.

"The average child," says Dr. Yokum, "who has a radio is gaining more of a knowledge of the world he lives in than was possessed by the well-educated man of fifty years ago. The children have grasped the scientific construction of the radio in a way that amazes their parents. What we, as parents, must do now is to teach them how to apply all of this mass of real experience that is coming into their lives. It has become our task to make the child articulate of the world about him."

Dr. Yokum recommended the "project method" to teachers, which consists in training the pupils to put into actual practice the scientific theories that have been explained to them. The project method develops the skill of the pupil by showing him how to make some practical article by scientific means. By this means a bewildering mass of details are made clear and the child given a more complete understanding of the world about him.

Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Yokum said, the phrases which were used by educational writers were "training the mind," "mental discipline" and "strengthening the faculties." These phrases indicate a type of education involving school subjects and methods which have little or no bearing upon any task which the pupils may be required to perform out in the world, or any problem which they will have to solve, or any undertaking in which they may be interested.

Education, however, that is designed to secure mental discipline according to the doctor, should take but slight account of the usefulness of any subject in dealing with which the discipline is to be gained.

Those who are abandoning such phrases as those quoted above maintain that pupils should be required to acquire such knowledge and gain such experience as they will have use for in everyday life.

According to this fact, a pupil cannot do outside of school, anything essentially different from that which he has done in school. Also he will accomplish more in the acquisition of knowledge and skill if he is interested in his tasks than if he is not interested in them and does not feel any desire to attack them.

More and more education is becoming a practical matter, something for the equipment for life and not a useless enthusiasm.

## To the Editor

## LET THE LAW BE CLEAN.

Lucknow Resident Believes O. T. A. Is Not To Be Judged Simply by Cases in Police Court.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—Sometimes we get disgusted that the O. T. A. is not more rigorously enforced. But let us think a minute.

The law has other uses than binding hand and foot those who want to break it, or venting vengeance on those who do break it.

It creates public opinion against harmful things to our society. It is enough for some people to have things shown up in bad light, such as people refrain from it. It is enough for other people to have a thing left uncondemned; such give themselves free rein.

The law reaches and influences tens of thousands of people just because it is the law, and not because they fear the penalty of the courts. Rather they dread the shame of infirmation. That is one great reason why a clean law should be re-

tained on the statute books of the country, even though there is no rigorous aggression to bring offenders to the bar of judgment.

The law speaks; let the law remain.

Even if only one offender out of a dozen is brought to the bar of judgment—that is enough to make the law a valuable asset to a healthy state of society. A day of grace is the main principle of the Christian religion. Eliminate patience and long-suffering, and a day of grace and you will have national anarchy in no time. Give men a day of grace and you win their sympathy and co-operation. Whenever the offender is not brought to the bar of justice, that means that grace is having its inning. It does not mean a contempt for the law to let it rest on the statute books without cast-iron enforcement. But it does make hurtful things respectable when our statute books do not speak against them. Anarchy again. An occasional conviction is not useful because of fear it creates in evil doers, so much as it is useful in reminding us all of what is essential to a healthy state of society.

We are not trying to build up a good social order on the foundation of intimidation and fear; but by

healthy sympathies and such free-will co-operation as we can expect from that generosity that is found in almost every man's heart. This does not mean that a recalcitrant and injurious member of society should be given limitless freedom.

It is not a blot on our society, and a mark of failure of our social order that some men are making money out of traffic in evil. It is a credit to our social order that bottled iniquity is being so cornered as to come at a high price. For booze is bottled violence and adultery and calamity and idiocy. It will not help our social order to make bottled in-

equity cheap and righteous. Those who heap to themselves riches out of the same are also heaping to themselves woe; error has dire consequences more terrible than man's penalties. He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

For the sake of the words, "Lead us not into temptation," let the law be clean. By the law comes a knowledge of sin. And if we do not create a sense of sin, how shall we be delivered from temptation? Let the law be clean; let the law remain. T. HAROLD ECKERT.

Lucknow, Ont., Sept. 9, 1924.



## The Threshing BEE

MANY a Canadian has witnessed the whole-hearted co-operation of a Western threshing bee. Neighbourly unity accomplishes in a day what one man could not accomplish by himself alone, and he in his turn helps others accomplish what they would be powerless to do as individuals.

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