

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1923

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## THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

So far as the returns up to noon today indicated the British elections have resulted in the defeat of the proposed policy of protection. Not only have the Conservatives lost many seats to Liberal or Labor candidates, but the majorities of Conservatives who were elected were greatly reduced. If the later returns correspond with those received up to noon the free traders will have a majority. Of course that majority would be made up of Liberal and Labor votes combined; but, since these two parties agree on free trade, the Baldwin policy, if they together have a majority when the votes are counted, will be beaten. It is significant that Lancashire has repudiated protection. The Conservatives had hoped to make gains there, but suffered losses. In the large centres all over the country the tide turned against the Government. It still has the largest single group in the House, but not large enough to carry through a protection policy. Labor is still the second party in numbers, but may be hard pressed if not surpassed by the Liberals when all the constituencies are heard from. The Liberals have made notable gains as a result of the re-union of the Lloyd George and Asquith forces. While it is unwise to speculate until all the returns are in, there are indications that the new House will not be long-lived, because the Government, by a combination of its opponents, could at any time be defeated; and the prospect of a coalition appears to be too remote to warrant any speculations based on such a result.

The defeat of Mr. Winston Churchill by a Labor candidate is to some extent offset by the election of Hon. C. F. G. Masterman, a prominent Liberal who was not in the last House, and the defeat of Arthur Henderson, the Labor leader, by a Liberal. Hon. Mr. Asquith, whose defeat had been feared, has a good majority. Lady Astor retains her seat for Plymouth. Sir Montagu Barlow, a member of the Government, is defeated. In Miss Susan Lawrence, who is described as a distinct acquisition to the House, Labor has its first woman member. Among Canadians who were candidates Mr. Grant Morden and Mr. Wilkie Haycock are elected.

No doubt full returns will show quite a number of important changes in the composition of the House.

New Brunswick people will be interested to know that Mr. Daniel G. Somerville, grandson of the late Daniel Somerville of Norton, Kings County, holds his seat for Barrow-in-Furness in the new House of Commons.

## HARBOR COMMISSION.

President Beatty, in his remarks on Wednesday dwelt upon the importance of making St. John as nearly a free port as possible. Some have expressed the view that harbor commission would help, and several members of the Federal Government have advocated this course. It is interesting in this connection to note the following article in the Vancouver Sun, as they have harbor commission at the Pacific port, and its experience may be of some value. It says:—

"Unless the Vancouver Harbor Commissioners reconsider their new tax of ten cents a ton on the shipment of grain through this port, the whole structure of the Western coast, built up laboriously on sound economic laws, is apt to collapse through their very greed. This port cannot hope to pay its way as it goes along. It must be fortified with investments payable out of future profits just in the same way as any other new business project is worked up. If antagonism to this route is engendered in the prairies, future profits will be non-existent and Vancouver will be back in the position of five years ago. Asop tells of the greedy ape that reached into the pitcher of grapes and filled his hand so full he could not pull it out. In his efforts to get all the grapes at once he not only failed to get any but squashed them into pulp. If the Harbor Board persists in its present course, the Western route grapes will be squashed beyond hope of repair."

The point that seems to be made clear by this article is that harbor commission is not necessarily a guarantee of low port charges.

## PORTLAND AND CITY-MANAGER.

The City of Portland, Maine, having grown weary of partisan politics in city affairs adopted this year a new charter providing for a smaller council and a city-manager form of government. This week the first election was held, and a council in full sympathy with the new system was elected. The Committee of One Hundred, which made the successful fight for the new charter, put a ticket in the field and every member was elected. The Ku Klux Klan, which has become a political force in the city endorsed the Committee's candidates and aided very

## THE RUHR AND REPARATIONS

(Boston Herald.)  
A full inquiry to determine the capacity of Germany to pay reparations and the best means of securing just payment to the allies seems no nearer now than it has been at any time during the last two months. America would have helped if Europe had agreed. Secretary Hughes' plan of unrestricted investigation by an international commission of experts has been before the European powers for a year, and still it stands today as the one proposal for an unrestricted and complete investigation of German resources and reparations possibilities. Britain approved it. So did Germany. France accepted it, and then imposed conditions on the scope of inquiry. Belgium followed suit. Italy accepted the principle, but hobbled the plan with consideration of the inter-allied debts.

European politicians keep on calling on America to come in, but the moves of most of them have tended to shut her out.

## ROUGH ON JOHNSON.

Hiram Johnson is not making any marked headway in his campaign for the Republican nomination in the next presidential contest in the United States. Mr. Coolidge still appears to be the favorite. The Wall Street Journal calls Johnson "a paper candidate," and says:—

"He is, of course, in favor of a soldier's bonus and equally of course, in favor of tax reduction at the same time. He probably knows that the two things do not go together, but so long as he thinks the voter doesn't know that matter easily adjusts itself in what Mr. Johnson is pleased to call his mind. He is safely against entangling alliances with Europe, but George Washington said it first. With equal safety he denounces child labor. Life throws in the giving of a few dead giants for good measure and, incidentally to his speech, contrives to butt into a party squabble in Illinois and make it worse, if there are degrees of better and worse in that kind of politics. Why is Johnson running at all? The man talks as if he were weary and disappointed, as if the political prizes he had won in the past had turned to dust and ashes in his mouth, as if the knifing of Hughes in California in 1916, the subsequent adoption of the Hearst label, or collar or brand or whatever the wearers of it call that mark for identification, had not brought him any mental ease or restoration of self-respect. Perhaps the explanation is that he is wearily working out the Hearst bargain, whatever its terms may be. It is not an inspiring spectacle, but it is not likely to last long. Johnson's hold on the front page is already precarious."

From a financial paper, this is fairly vigorous criticism, but the Wall Street Journal goes on and throws in a contemptuous remark or two for good measure. That—

## ELGIN GIRL IS MARRIED IN BOSTON

A pretty wedding took place at the first Presbyterian Church, Boston, Mass. on November 17 when Miss Blanche Eva Yeomans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Yeomans of Elgin, N. B., became the bride of Mr. Clinton Lester Larrabee, of Marshall, Maine. The ceremony was performed by Rev. G. M. Watson in the presence of New Brunswick friends. The bride wore a becoming gown of blue Canton crepe with fringe and silver trimming, with hat to match. She was attended by her cousin, Miss Twila Yeomans of Sussex, N. B., while the groom was supported by Wilfred Bernard of Presque Isle, Maine.

After a short honeymoon trip, Mr. and Mrs. Larrabee will reside in Boston. The bride has many friends in Sackville.

## He'd Have to Go Some.

Saturn is said to have ten moons, but we bet he doesn't have any more moonshine than we have.—Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette.

## Press Comment

### DISPUTE OVER TANGIER ENDED

An agreement between Great Britain and France regarding Tangier, at the western entrance to the Mediterranean, has been reached and a treaty covering all the points in dispute will be signed at Paris in a few days. The port of Tangier has been for years a subject of dispute involving not only France and Great Britain, but all nations trading at Tangier, and especially the two western Mediterranean countries, Italy and France. There were so many points of disagreement that when the conference was called, three months ago, little hope was entertained of a settlement of the controversy.

American interests at Tangier—Yankee shippers began trading at this port more than a century ago, and an American firm has a contract for the improvement of the harbor—are fully protected, according to the terms of the agreement. There were two interesting developments at this conference: in the first place, Great Britain and France, which have lacked accord on many other subjects, apparently easily reached a satisfactory understanding in this ancient dispute, and, in the next place, Spain and Italy seem to have had small parts in the settlement.

France gained the point she most desired, that the sovereignty of the Sultan of Morocco, for whom France stands sponsor, shall be extended over Tangier. France is thus the dominant power at Tangier. Great Britain got her demand for an open door for trade and the concession that Tangier shall be neutral in war and shall not be used as a naval or aerial base. This means that she will not have to worry about the defense of Gibraltar.

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### THE COSMETIC URGE

(New York Herald.)  
In these days of stupendous national debts the very contemplation of which is enough to bring down the taxpayers' gray hairs in sorrow to the grave, it is reassuring to learn what large totals we spend on luxuries and semi-luxuries. Saunders Norvell, representative of a prominent firm of drug manufacturers, illustrated the power of commercial publicity at the advertising convention this week by pointing out that the inhabitants of this country in 1922 spent \$100,000,000 on chewing gum, \$75,000,000 for cosmetics, \$145,000,000 for scented toilet soaps and the remarkable sum of \$800,000,000 on patent medicines guaranteed to cure all ailments of man and beast.

### OF COURSE A MAN WROTE THIS

(Vancouver Sun.)  
Famous French physician says that nine-tenths of women's illnesses are caused by wearing sheer silk stockings in the winter time.  
This doctor also reports that nine out of every ten women patients to whom he makes this statement reply, "Well, if I can't wear silk stockings I might as well die anyway."  
French women and women in all other countries where females exceed males in number, know that unless they utilize every trick of dress they can't get husbands.  
So they choose husbands in preference to health.  
From the standpoint of the state, the alternative is even more serious. Women must weaken their constitutions or remain unmarried. If they weaken their constitutions by dressing attractively for men, they produce weaker children. If they dress sensibly and unattractively, they won't produce children at all.  
The only way out of the difficulty seems to lie in educating men to prefer

## BOOK REVIEW

### FICTION.

The Happy Isles. By Basil King. New York: Harper & Harper and Brothers.

When a newspaper reader perusing the news of the day learns that people have been run over by automobiles or sued for breach of promise or robbed of a lifetime's savings he has little personal feeling toward any of it. But when a child has been kidnapped the horribly uncertain mystery of what may have happened is felt by many more individuals than the members of the child's own family.

In "The Happy Isles" Basil King has taken as his theme the experiences of a kidnapped child and his emotional and mental development throughout his childhood, boyhood and young manhood.

It is convincingly handled. One sees clearly that this lad's experiences cannot be brushed away as ineffectual when the time comes for a possible reunion with his real family. His mother—the mother who stole him as a baby and who loved him in her intense, unprincipled, half-crazed fashion, bred into him something stronger than the ties of blood. His memory of her as the one whom he called "mudda," his loyalty toward the people who collected people with whom he came in contact, are more significant to him than a distant and quite forgotten matter of birth in the rich home that was his by right.

Tom Whitelaw is well drawn, so are lesser characters, and so, too, is Tom's real mother, who, after the long, harrowing, intervening years after her baby is stolen, cannot take straight to him than a distant and quite forgotten matter of birth in the rich home that was his by right.

The Happy Isles? Tom explains them. "I was on my way to New York with the man who had adopted me after I'd been a State ward. There was a steamer on the river, and I watched her—coming from I don't know where. And it came to me then that she was something like myself. I didn't know what port I'd sail from; nor what port I was making for. But now that I'm 23—if that's my age—I see this: That once in a while I touched at some happy isle, whose people took me in and were good to me. It was what carried me along."

There are minor small annoyances in the book, but they don't seem less forced on the screen than in the book.

But in spite of these small matters "The Happy Isles" is a readable, well written, happily logical book, which inevitably will be enjoyed and deservedly so.

### BOOK NOTES.

The most important November publications of Henry Holt & Co. are Robert Frost's "New Hampshire: A Poem With Notes and Grace Notes," and Mrs. J. Borden Harriman's memoirs, entitled "From Florence to Politics." Portions of Mrs. Harriman's book have already appeared in the Century Magazine.

The Macmillan Company is publishing a play by Thomas Hardy called "The Famous Tragedy of the Queen of Cornwall at Tintagel in

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## THE RACONTEUR.

He likes to talk of sailor days  
When he was a rover  
Of all the seas of all the world  
And dangers now over.

His aged eyes are watery blue,  
His yarn source unfailing;  
He chews and talks, and spits and talks  
Till daylight's paling.

His audience is any one  
Who, hearing, will listen;  
His glib tongue leaps to speak the yarn  
His old eyes glisten.

A fascinating raconteur,  
But liar, not rover.  
For the only trip he ever made  
Was from Calais to Dover  
(Edmund Leamy in N. Y. Sun.)

IN LIGHTER VEIN.  
A Ready Stickler.  
Father (seriously)—My boy, don't you think it's about time for you to stand alone?

Son (cheerfully)—All right, dad. I can stand a loan right now. Suppose we make it \$30.

After Thinking Twice.  
Father was standing before the fire, lecturing his son and heir on the necessity for thinking twice before speaking once.

"Father!" exclaimed the boy suddenly.  
The parent held up a warning finger.  
"Think again before you speak, and then I will answer you."

The boy pondered for a minute or so, and then said: "Father, I have thought twice, and now I am quite convinced that your coat tails are on fire."

Too Great a Sacrifice.  
"Who is the most popular man in Crimmon Gulch?"  
"Cactus Joe. He was unanimously elected sheriff."

"Is he now holding office?"  
"No. He refused. He said he'd rather go on being popular."—Washington Star.

Always At It.  
Jones was late again, as usual. When he strolled coolly into the office at 10:30 the "boss" was storming up and down.

"Do you know what time we begin work here?" he asked the late arrival with deep sarcasm.  
Jones took off his coat and hat, hung them up and strolled across to his desk.

"No, sir. Can't say I do exactly," he replied, "but they're always at it when I get here."—Des Moines Register.

Maybe They Were Right.  
A doctor and his Irish coachman were driving past a duck pond, when the coachman said:  
"O! hate them birds, sorr."

"Why should you hate the poor creatures, Pet?" the physician asked.  
"I'm sure they never do you any harm."

"Sure, sorr, don't you hear them meeking you? You never pass quick but they call 'quack, quack, quack!'—Tit-Bits.

She Learned Plenty.  
Kit—Her husband is teaching her to drive the car.  
Mabel—Has she learned anything yet?

Kit—Yes, she has learned what horrible language he uses when he loses his temper.—Answers, London.

He Wondered.  
A Scotch doctor, who was attending a laird, had instructed the butler of the house in the art of taking and recording his master's temperature with a thermometer.

On repairing to the house one morning, he was met by the butler, to whom he said: "Well, John, I hope the laird's temperature is not any higher today." The man looked puzzled for a moment, and then replied: "Well, I was just wonderin' that myself. Ye see, he died at two o'clock."

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