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LONDON, FRIDAY, DEC. 31.
THE BRITISH ELECTIONS AND CANADIAN OPINION.

Mr. Fred Daly's letter in another column reminds one of the old college song, "What's the Good of Anything? Why, Nothing!" He sees no good to the working classes in the Lloyd-George budget. In the House of Commons the other day Mr. Lloyd-George pointed with pride to the drop of 29 per cent in the consumption of liquor during the few months in which the new scale of liquor taxes had been in operation. He characterized this as "surprising," and a cheering omen for the temperance cause. One would think, in view of his record, that this aspect of the budget would appeal strongly to Mr. Daly, as it does to the temperance workers of the United Kingdom.

The budget is mainly a plan of financing great schemes of social betterment—insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity; the rescue of men, women and children from the workhouse; the afforestation of waste lands; the building of roads; the break-up of the land monopoly; and the division of the land among small holders; and, generally speaking, the scientific development of natural resources of the country. There are British statesmen who earnestly believe the working classes will benefit by these policies. At any rate, they propose to try to remedy social evils, instead of turning from them helplessly or callously.

Mr. Daly complains that Canadian newspapers and politicians, who favored closer trade relations with the United States some years ago, are "holding up to scorn all those who are endeavoring to strengthen the bonds of Empire." There are Canadians who honestly cannot see, as Mr. Daly can, that the bonds of Empire will be strengthened by levying duties on Canadian products which now enter the British market free of charge. Probably more than half the British people are opposed to taxes on imported food-stuffs. They will not love Canadians or Australians more if they imagine that they must pay these taxes as the price of Canadian and Australian loyalty. "Pretty plainly," says the Canadian correspondent of the London Times, "the increasing preponderance of foreign population in the Canadian west cannot be kept loyal to the Empire unless it is given a bribe in the shape of a tax on the food of the people of Britain." It is humiliating to self-respecting Canadians to read such stuff, and to think that it is being circulated in Great Britain in the name of Imperialism. The attitude of the London Morning Post is the honest one. It dismisses the cant about imposing taxes to please the colonies, and admits that the tariff scheme is conceived in the interest of British producers.

Canadian newspapers are discussing British politics from the same motives that prompted Mr. Daly to write a letter—because they are deeply interested in the issues. Mr. Daly seems to have a notion that only Liberal parties in Canada are "interfering," as he calls it, in British affairs. As a matter of fact, the Asquith Government is being as bitterly attacked by Conservative newspapers in Canada as if the election were being fought in this country. They are as ardent defenders of the anti-budget peers and of the hereditary principle as Mr. Daly seems to be. No one denies his assertion that the British aristocracy has contributed many talented men to the service of the Empire, but this is no argument for making its undistinguished scions the rulers of the people. It will be news to the Ottawa Citizen and the Manchester Guardian to hear that they have been calling the aristocracy the scum of the earth. The Citizen is a Conservative journal, moderate in its tone, and the Manchester Guardian is a newspaper of the highest ideals, considered by many to be the best in Great Britain, an opinion which The Advertiser, as a constant reader of it, shares.

LOOKING TOWARD CANADA.
It is interesting to note that while a royal commission is engaged in looking into the trade relations between Canada and the British West Indies with a view to their improvement, South American republics are turning to this country as a market for their products. These include many things which Canada must import, such as tropical fruits, coffee, cocoa and cotton, while there are a number of lines of manufactures in which we might do a profitable trade with the south.

Little, if any, Venezuela coffee, which is declared to be superior to the Brazilian article, reaches Canada, the great bulk of the exports going to the United States, where the coffee is the prevailing beverage.

A leading journal of Caracas, El Progreso, discussing the possibilities of opening up trade with the Dominion, declares that Canada, owing to the degree of industrial development to which she has now attained and her position as an important part of the British Empire, must henceforward be considered as one of the prime factors in the struggle for the capture of the markets of Spanish-America and the opening up of those torrid regions. "Up to the present time," says the Caracas paper, "Venezuela has not sought to enter into trade relations of any kind with Canada. The capitalists of that extensive and wealthy Dominion are now investigating the best means for establishing navigation lines between its ports and those of the southern continent, for developing asphalt and petroleum deposits, working mines, cultivating and exporting acid and semi-acid fruits, and fostering the production of some of the most valuable prime materials of this zone." The paper suggests the establishment of a consulate of the first-class at Montreal, and the appointment thereto of a man capable of furnishing the Dominion with full information as to the possibilities which Venezuela offers to Canadian capital and of sending to Venezuela data as to the most practical manner for strengthening relations between the two countries. Canada is willing to do business with Venezuela and other South American republics. With Castro out of the way, the former country is doubtless now a safer place for investment.

THE WORLD'S SEA-BORNE COMMERCE.

Practically one-half the vessels and one-half the tonnage of the world's merchant marine flies the British flag. Sea-borne commerce has assumed tremendous proportions, and with the development of Canada, Australia, Spanish America, Siberia and even China, it is bound to expand rapidly. The latest report of the United States bureau of statistics apportions ships and tonnage among the various nations as follows:

Flag	No. of Vessels	Tonnage
British	11,563	18,700,000
American (including lake traffic)	2,250	4,860,000
German	2,173	4,232,000
Norwegian	2,148	2,000,000
French	1,517	1,882,000
Italian	1,300	1,300,000
Russian	870	1,142,000
Japanese	1,409	1,000,000
Swedish	1,550	900,000
Dutch	565	900,000
Spanish	551	700,000

London's trade is greater than that of any other port in the world, amounting to \$1,620,000,000 a year, and Liverpool's is almost as much. The incoming and outgoing ships of Hamburg and Bremen combined carried freight to the value of \$2,625,000,000 during 1907, while Antwerp's share last year was \$1,000,000,000. The French ports of Marseilles and Havre do an annual business of close on a billion dollars between them. The growth of Japanese merchantmen since 1880 has been remarkable, the tonnage having increased from \$9,000 to 1,142,000, while the trade of the three ports of Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki now totals \$350,000,000 annually.

One striking feature of the statistics is the indifference showing made by the United States. It is true that country ranks second in vessels and tonnage, but if what is employed on the inland lakes is deducted the ocean-going tonnage will be found almost negligible. The American flag has almost vanished from the high seas, whereas fifty years ago the United States merchant marine was challenging Britain's supremacy. The ship-building industry in the republic has been almost killed by the tariff upon every material that enters into the construction of ships. It lives upon the lake business, of which it has a monopoly under the coasting laws. The United States is low in the scale, too, as regards commerce. Shanghai, with trade amounting to \$256,000,000, outranks New Orleans, the second United States port, by \$50,000,000, while Calcutta, Bombay and Singapore, with \$910,000,000, exceed by \$40,000,000 annually all United States ports excepting New York and New Orleans. In view of the competition of the Canadian route, which bears particularly hard on New York, there does not appear any likelihood of an improvement in the showing of United States ports in the near future.

Good-bye, 1909!

It will be a happy New Year for at least some of the municipal candidates.

The year 1910 opens without a war-cloud. This is a cause for anxiety, according to Lord Rosebery's theory of an "ominous hush."

The Toronto Star says with truth that in his lifetime Gladstone was as fiercely assailed as Lloyd-George is today, and for the same reason.

A Saturday election has some advantages. The public will have a day of rest after the terrible strain of this year's municipal campaign.

The British and German Governments are trying to find a basis of cooperation on certain problems. If it included the question of armaments, the angel of peace would sing for joy. But it will come in spite of the classes in both countries who have a selfish interest in preventing it.

Issues, such as home rule, the educational question and the constitutional right of the peers to reject finance bills, could not be kept out of the contest because masses of people feel strongly upon them. Many Churchmen, for instance, are divided between admiration for the budget, and distrust of the Government's school policy. The Irish party asks Irish voters to support the Government, and the English hierarchy insists that the educational issue take precedence over home rule. Many militant Nonconformists also put the educational bill before everything. To the Welsh people disestablishment is the principal subject of interest. Perhaps the majority of the electors are of the opinion that the question of the absolute veto of the House of Lords dominates everything else. There are a dozen cross-currents and side-issues. If the House of Lords can reject a budget and refuse supplies every year, it can turn a government out every year and destroy democratic institutions.

CANADA'S THE WISER COURSE.

The present Canadian Government has been attacked because it would not throw its weight on the side of the advocates of preferential trade in Great Britain. Such a course would have been a very serious blunder. It would have identified Canada as a nation with the cause of one of the British political parties. It would have enabled the British Tory party to say that Canada, as a whole, was opposed to the Lloyd-George budget because it makes no provision for protective or preferential duties. It would have placed Canada definitely on the side of the House of Lords, which rejected the budget in order that a protective budget might be substituted. It would have identified Canada with a policy of taxing the food of the British people for the supposed benefit of the colonies. Mr. Winston Churchill at the imperial conference of ministers, held in 1907, said that it would be a dangerous thing to associate the idea of empire and of the colonies with an enhancement, however small, of the necessities of life and industry in the United Kingdom. The result, he said, might be to breed anti-colonial sentiment, perhaps even sullen hatred. Our motives would certainly have been regarded as selfish.

It was far wiser for Canada to keep out of the fight, and let the people of the United Kingdom settle the question of free trade or protection without reference to Canadian interests or opinions. We are disinterested, though we are not uninterested.

BEARING FRUIT.

The decline in the number of deaths from tuberculosis shows that the educational campaign carried on for some years past is bringing results.

BURN IT.

It is not for Christmas, what would one do with one's money?

A HIGH IDEAL.

Many a man would do well to live up to the steady necktie he received on Christmas.

SURE TO GET ALONG.

Bells—but do you think you and he are suited for each other?
"Well, oh, perfectly! Our tastes are quite similar. I don't care much for him and he doesn't care much for me."

PROOF OF THE PUDDING.

Shoe Dealer—Here are a pair of boots that will suit you exactly in your next dash for the wind. How did you like the last pair I sold you?
Aretic Explorer (greeniscently)—The best I ever tasted.

SINGED HIS WHISKERS.

An extremely heavy loss of Santa Claus whiskers by fire is also reported.

SNOW BLANKET.

Winter wheat need just such a white counterpane. The flakes will be transmuted into a fine lot of farthings.

A BUDGET SPEECH.

Prepared by London Punch for a Backwoods Baron.

Ladies—and gentlemen, I have been asked to explain to you the budget of the budget. When I was last in London in 1892 I helped to reject the home rule bill of the traitor Gladstone. Ladies and gentlemen, I was proud to have done my duty then—and I am equally proud to have done my duty today. There are amongst us—certain progressive spirits—upon whom all true patriots must act as a check. My father-in-law once told me he could not understand the introduction of railways into this country. His advice was in the end disregarded. When I travelled up to London last week I found that the railway had been introduced. I felt that my father was right. The country, gentlemen—has been spoiled. On my way yesterday to the Zoological Gardens I was disgusted to learn—that these vandals had burrowed—even under the earth. Coming back from the British Museum last Monday—I was horrified to discover that trans passed along the Embankment. Had I not been ill—I should have voted against that measure—as, I understand—did many of my colleagues in the House. At Mrs. Tussaud's—two days ago—I looked back-up—and saw that I had been in the last fifty years. And all the misery and unhappiness—that is to be found in the villages and towns today—must (I decided) be put down to the curse of elementary education. Ladies and gentlemen, I say—without hesitation—that the lower classes—should have been left where they were—that in raising them you have raised a monster—worse than any that Frankenstein brought into being.

Gentlemen, we rejected the budget—because it sought to create war between the classes. England will never be at peace—unless the classes keep to their proper stations. The upper class to lead—and the lower class to obey. (Loud applause.)

WOEFUL IGNORANCE.

[Ottawa Free Press.]
When will sensible English public men cease talking nonsense about Canada? A London cable tells us that the British Schoolmasters' Association has solemnly decided that it is necessary to export public school boys to offset the American "invasion" of the West, and to solve the problem of whether the flag to fly over the Parliament buildings here shall in twenty years be the Union Jack or the Stars and Stripes. Somebody ought to cable over the fact that at least seventy per cent of the American "invaders" take out their naturalization papers just as soon as is possible under the law, and become good British subjects.

NEW NAME FOR FIREMEN.

[Buffalo Express.]
A farmer was driving in Elk street a few days ago. Coming close behind him was a fire engine.
"Look out for the fire department!"

shouted a man on the curb.
The farmer pulled in close to the curb, and after the engine had passed started toward the middle of the street again. Then a hook and ladder crew whizzed by and took off one of the rear wheels of his wagon.
"I told you to look out," said the man at the curb.

"I told you to look out," said the farmer, "and I did look out, but I got out what those drunken painters with the wagon load of ladders did to my rig."

JUST IN TIME.

[Lippincott's.]
A German shoemaker left the gas turned on in his shop one night, and upon arriving in the morning struck a match to light it. There was a terrific explosion, and the shoemaker was blown out through the door almost to the middle of the street.

A passer-by rushed to his assistance and after helping him to arise, inquired if he was injured.
The little German gazed at his place of business, which was now burning quite briskly, and said:
"No, I ain't hurt. But I got out 'shust in time. Eh?"

WEST LONDON.

Mr. Arthur Keene's new red pressed brick residence on Surrey avenue is just about completed and is a creditable addition to West London.

Miss Mae Clarke, Wharncliffe Road, West London, has returned home after spending the Christmas holidays with her brother, Mr. Chester E. Clarke, manager of the Grand Union Hotel, Toronto.

The many friends of Mr. Herbert Kiddle, 59 Wilson avenue, West London, will be sorry to learn of his illness at his home with an attack of acute bronchitis.

Mrs. Hodgins and two children, formerly of the Hodgins House, are new arrivals in West London and have taken up a residence on Alexander street.

Hundreds of small children dotted the ice at the foot of Dundas street yesterday afternoon and enjoyed the excellent sport afforded as a result of the steady cold weather. A little snow fell during the night but it was not nearly so laborious for the youngsters to clear the large space in the morning as it would have been to shovel a path for their mother at home. Many home-made snow-shoes and brooms were brought into play, and in a short period the snow-covered river was turned into one of the most beautiful skating rinks in the city. Several men stood on the bridge and remarked that it would be a good money-making proposition for them to keep the large square in shape and charge an admission. The children, however, they heard the remark, would no doubt have taken very unkindly to the proposition.

Mr. Walter Sage, son of Rev. Mr. Sage, of St. George's Church, is home on a visit. He resides in Toronto.

Court Excelsior, A. O. F., have vacated their lodge rooms in the Old Collins' Hall, West London, and have secured more convenient quarters near the centre of the city.

Abundance of ice is now obtainable on the river, and west end ice-men state that their source of supply will not run short for a long time to come. Large numbers of men are employed cutting and hauling. "Ice will be plentiful and of a superior quality next summer," stated a dealer, "but you can safely say that ice will never be cheaper than it has been."

Mr. Leathorn and family, of Wyatt street, West London, are moving to Ingersoll, where Mr. Leathorn has secured a position.

A resident of Wharncliffe road, West London, had a narrow escape last evening from being burned severely about the face and arms. The gentleman and his wife had just returned after spending the evening at the home of a friend. They found that the heater had burned itself out owing to a lack of fuel. In a very few minutes the remaining clinkers were raked out and the wood laid preparatory to starting a fresh fire. A single stick of coal oil and a lucifer and all was ready. In placing the lighted match to the paper a flame was caused to shoot through the open door of the stove, burning off parts of a fine pair of eyebrows and narrowly missing scorching the eyeballs. Except for the burned eyebrows the gentleman is none the worse for the experience, but declares that never more will he use the coal oil can in lighting a fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Birmingham, who reside at 38 Dundas street west and who had the misfortune to be both taken ill at Christmas time, are now able to be around again, although not entirely recovered from the effects of their ailments.

An elderly lady had the misfortune to slip on an icy sidewalk yesterday afternoon on Wilson avenue, West London, and sprained her ankle. She was placed on a street car and sent to her home in the east end of the city.

The need of a physician's office in West London is becoming more noticeable every day. This is the weather when there are many ills and pains, and cases which need immediate attention, and the absence of a doctor who can be called in on short notice is deplored. In the centre of this ever-growing city there are many doctors' shingles hanging out, but alas, poor West London has been given the go-by. Why does not some young doctor grasp the situation and locate in the suburb? His success is already assured, as a glance over the population of the west side will prove.

Miss Nell Wood, of Grand Rapids, is visiting at Mrs. Newman's, 28 Rogers avenue, London West.

GENIALTY.

The preacher said there is no place in heaven for sour people; nor is there really any place on earth, but these are some people who too often insist upon occupying such a place. They wouldn't if they knew how little they were liked. A person may show sorrow and feel the pressure of a gloom upon his heart, but to be sour, crabbed, ill-natured, is to express a phase of disposition that is extremely distasteful, if not disgusting.

CHAPMAN'S STORE OPEN TONIGHT for NEW YEARS SHOPPING DOLLS for New Years



AFTER CHRISTMAS REDUCTION IN FURS

Five only long-length American Sable Scarfs, trimmed with heads and tails; beautiful heavy fur. Regular price \$12.50, now..... \$7.85
Seven only Natural Sable Scarfs, No. 1 quality fur; a large-size Scarf trimmed with head and tails. Regular \$22, for..... \$14.75
Three only Throwovers of Rock Marten fur, lined with satin. A handsome Neck-Piece for young ladies. Regular \$9.00, for..... \$5.50
Two only beautiful Throwovers of fine quality Canadian Mink, trimmed with heads and tails, satin-lined. Muffs to match. Regular price of each is \$22.00. Choice for..... \$14.50

J. H. Chapman & Co. 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.

If it were lawful to do so.

The opposite of this splendid condition of soul is sweetness of disposition—a kindly temper turned toward the world. Such a disposition is worth a ton of gold. A man can do more business with it than with all the money in the world. It makes more friends, creates more happiness and insures happier homes than he can with almost any other grace. The genial man is always welcome. He is like a flower, a streak of sunshine, the song of a bird—he is in harmony with the beauty and joy of all things.—Columbus Johnson.

DRINKING AT MEALS.

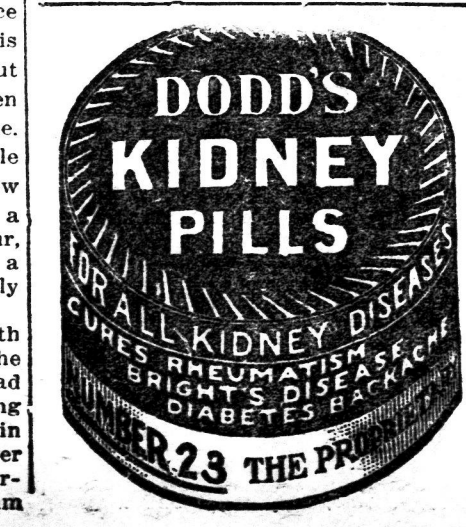
One by one old and cherished ideas are giving way before the simple application of practical tests. Perhaps no other one idea with reference to eating habits has been more widespread and more persistent than that it is injurious to drink water at meals. The old medical rule against eating before going to bed has been discontinued by the medical profession itself for a long time now, and it has been repeatedly shown that a reasonable amount of food taken before retiring is beneficial to many nervous people, and is not infrequently a cure for insomnia.

The rule against drinking at meals has been more persistent, but it appears to be doomed, now that the professors in the physiological chemistry department of the University of Illinois have set about making experiments to prove the digestive value of copious draughts of water taken while eating. One quart of water at each meal was the prescription followed, and it was found that the subject actually thrived on it. The theory is that the water, diluting the saliva, "causes the digestive fluid to assume greater digestive activity."—Manchester Union.



"Marcelle" Tonight.

Pixley and Luder's latest and best comic opera, "Marcelle," with Louise Gunning, a great local favorite, will be the attraction at the Grand tonight and tomorrow matinee and night. The advance sale has been very large for each performance, and indications point to crowded houses during the engagement.



THE ONE PRICE STORE THE YEAR 'ROUND

No Fancy Prices That Require Discounting
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Gents' Gold Filled Watches..... \$6.50 upward
Ladies' Nickel Case Watches..... \$6.50 upward
Ladies' Gold Filled Watches..... \$2.50 upward
A large assortment of all kinds of cases and movements from which to choose.

W. J. WRAY & CO.

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384 RICHMOND STREET, SEE BIG WATCH SIGN,
Opposite City Hall.

A "Victor" New Year's Concert

Will be held
In the Nordheimer Hall
188 Dundas Street
Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1910
At 8:15 p. m.

Reproductions of the eminent artists Caruso, Calve, the popular Scotch comedian Harry Lauder and others will be given.

A Cordial Invitation Is Extended to You

Programme may be had on application

The negroes of the United States formed in 1800 13.8 per cent of the population; in 1810, 19.03 per cent; in 1850, 15.68 per cent; in 1860, 14.12 per cent; in 1880, 12.11 per cent; in 1890, 11.92 per cent, and in 1900, 11.59 per cent.

So Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to hang on to his seat for Quebec East, thus preventing the popularity of F. D. Monk, M.P., from swinging the same into the Borden column.