

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1920

BRITISH PREMIER A WIDE READER

Favorite Authors of Lloyd
George Enumerated by
Lord Riddell.

The popular and genial Lord Riddell, newspaper proprietor, and whipper-in for Lloyd George of the British press representatives at the Peace conference, has been writing very interestingly about the literary tastes of his intimate friend the old prime minister, in John O'London's Weekly.

The general effect of the article is to convey that Lloyd George reads widely but not deeply. Oratory, ancient and modern, seems to attract him most. He reads the day-to-day speeches of his chief opponents, he recently read through the speeches of the late John Bright—a depository of radical pacifism—and he considers that Disraeli's attack on Sir Robert Peel is the finest example of parliamentary invective extant; a somewhat superficial judgment.

"He delights in a cause celebre just as much as the ordinary individual. He takes the keenest interest in how cases are conducted. He likes to point out what counsel might have said but did not say, how well he put his case, or how skilfully a witness evaded the searching question."

Quick to Seize the Point.

Then, of course, he has to plough through reams of official documents and reports, and he has the surest hand in picking out the kernel or the defect which can be seized upon for dialectical purposes.

But his chief mental pabulum seems to be newspapers. He is interested in all sorts of newspapers except the technical ones, which he never reads. In motoring through the street he is an avid reader of the newspaper billboard, and cannot refrain from stopping to buy a copy of any paper that promised something striking piece of news, be it political or social. Indeed, it is quite notorious that no British prime minister, or minister, for that matter, has ever devoted so much attention to systematically utilizing the press.

Curiously enough, for a man with so large a share of human interest in his composition, poetry has little attraction for him—except Welsh poetry—which may be attributed to the subordination of taste to patriotic duty. But he reads history, politics, travels and biography, though he does not care for "biology," physiology or psychology. He marks



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important passages with pencil, and Sir George Riddell says truly "that it would be interesting to look through his books and note the passages he has marked."



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but unfortunately our curiosity on that point is left unsatisfied.

"Apart from novels he has no favorite books, except, perhaps, Macaulay's Essays and Lewes' 'Robespierre.'" Sir George fails to mention it, but Robespierre is Lloyd George's favorite political hero, and when he became Chancellor of the Exchequer he hung a portrait of the "sea-green incorruptible" one in his room. They were both attorneys.

His Favorite Novelists.

He has read "The Cloister and the Hearth" seven or eight times, its purpose doubtless being agreeable to him as sometimes a Welsh Calvinist. His favorite novelists are Scott, Dickens, Dumas, Conan Doyle, Stevenson, Lytton, Mayne Reid, Charles Reade, Penimore, Cooper, Mary Johnson, Locke, Jack London, Kipling, Weyman and so forth. When he is much struck by a book, he gives readings of outstanding passages in the family circle and "as he is a first-class actor and mimic, these little readings are most entertaining."

He is also fond of expounding the Bible, "of which he has a far more de-

tailed knowledge than any other book. He can quote from the Bible never-endingly. The characters are not to him purely religious. He sees them from the human point of view, and, indeed, there is an added and more intimate interest when you have been shown these Bible characters through the eyes of the Prime Minister." Lately he read Ibsen's four novels. His favorite character in fiction is Alan Breck in Stevenson's "Kidnapped."

He regards Gladstone as the greatest speaker he ever heard and holds that no one else ever came near him as an orator. "He had all the qualities—voice, gesture, appearance, enthusiasm, and his wonderful eyes." But he doesn't care for reading Gladstone's speeches, which, in fact, apart from the speaker's personality, are somewhat arid and involved.

An Admirer of Lincoln.

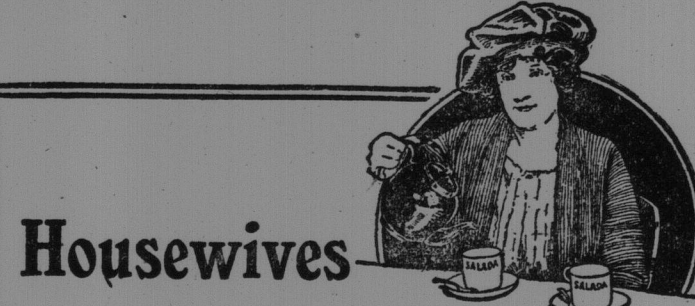
He considers Lincoln's Gettysburg speech perhaps the most striking ever delivered. He has a soft corner, too, for the late Joseph Chamberlain, whose speeches he often reads. "He says the only speech in which Chamberlain outlined his tariff reform policy one of the most skilful statements of a case he has ever seen." This was the speech in which Mr. Chamberlain went back on all his previous professions as a Free Trader. It marked, moreover, the beginning of his complete downfall.

"One of his chief pleasures is to steal away in the afternoon, between five and six o'clock, and, coiled up on the sofa, spend half an hour with a book, half reading, half sleeping. When he does this he has the peculiar gift of throwing off all official cares and worries and becoming completely absorbed in the book. Then he returns to work quite fresh, bright and full of enthusiasm."

Finally, he cares nothing for problem stories, or psychological studies, or for stories with an unhappy ending.

Had No Limousine.

"Pa, how much money did Croesus have?"
"Oh, I don't know. About enough to live on, what is at present middle-class style, I guess."—Boston Transcript.



Housewives

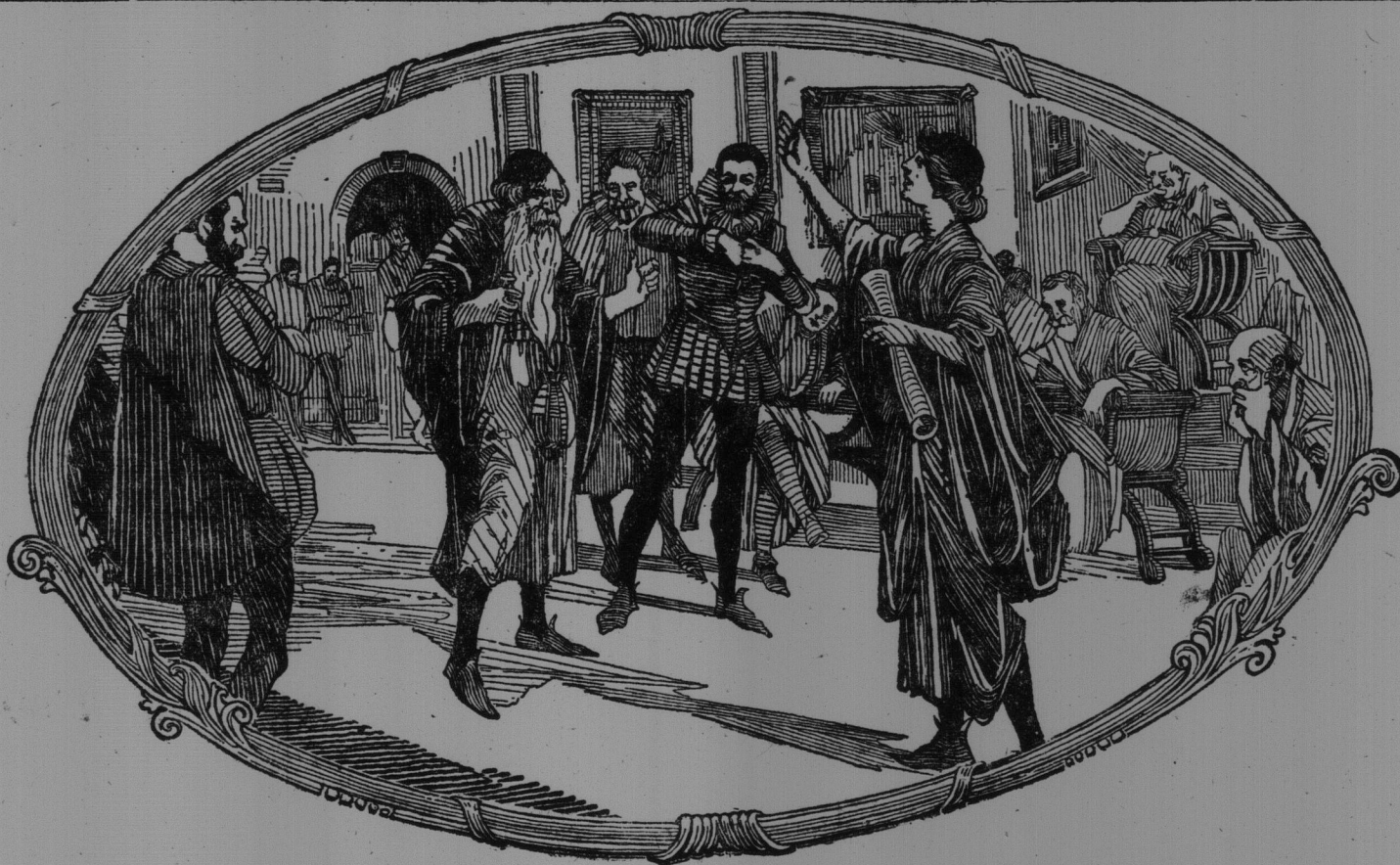
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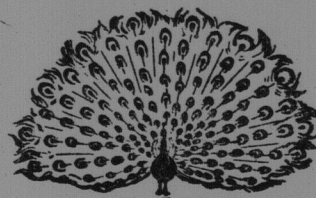
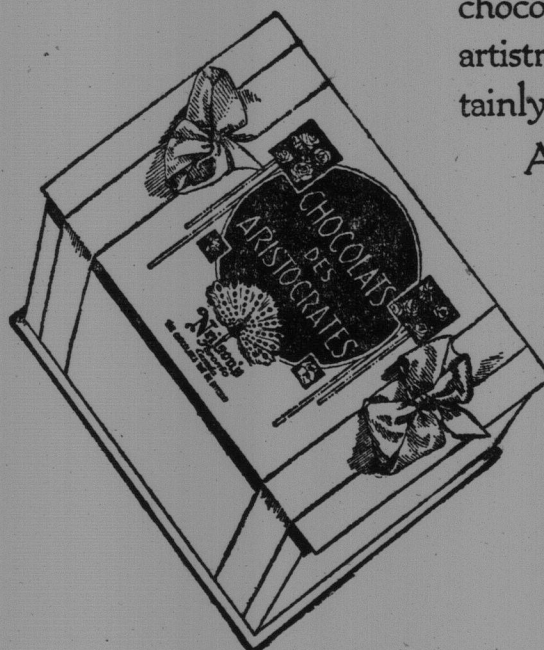
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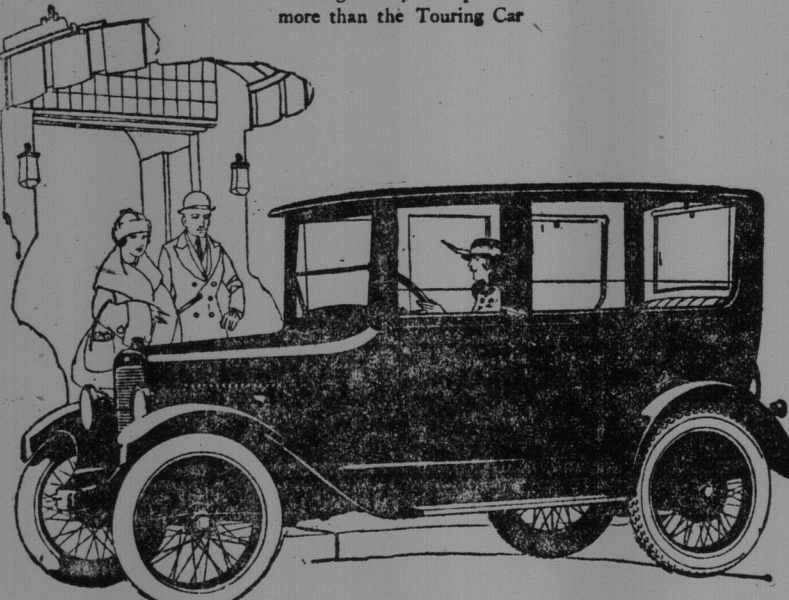
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