

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1919



PRINCE OF OFFICE THE PRINCE AT ANNAPOLIS WITH GRO 45

THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IS ON IN ENGLAND

Liberalism Slowly Gathering Strength But Government Still Strong

(Special cable to Times by F. A. McKenzie, copyright.)

London, Nov. 29.—This week has witnessed the start of the winter political campaign. The government's great appeal to the country was opened by Lord Birkenhead in a ringing speech. Liberalism is co-ordinating its forces and defining the programme for the Birmingham conference of the National Liberal Federation. The government still maintains a strong policy. The public generally is uneasy and dissatisfied against Geddes' way of handling the situation, but it is highly improbable that members will risk wrecking the ministry by carrying an adverse motion. The government is helped by the great growth of prosperity and the first beginnings of the reduction of prices of various commodities.

The coal owners threaten retaliation against the government reduction of prices of domestic coal, declaring they will close the coal seams, only supplying coal for industrial purposes on which higher prices can be charged. They bitterly oppose the ruling expected next week limiting their profits to one shilling and two pence a ton. Their protest is supported by the Federation of British Industries, an organization representing the greatest manufacturers as being unsound in principle and setting a precedent which if followed cannot fail to be destructive to the financial stability of the industries in this country.

The National Liberal Federation is gathering numbers. Over 120 delegates representing nearly every British constituency at the opening meetings, witnessed a strong stand by the reviving Manchester Liberals to force the party to accept a more pronounced progressive programme. Their action has been virtually accepted by the executive committee of the federation, which approves a steeper graduation of the income tax, increased death duties, establishment of a minimum rate of wages, a forty-eight hour week, and introducing the principle of self-government in industry on the lines of the Whitley report. British Liberalism is undoubtedly slowly gathering fresh strength. Each month sees an increase in its fighting forces.

A campaign to compel the government to issue premium bonds will apparently fail. They pledged sufficient members of the commons to make success certain, the government having announced it would leave the issue for the commons to determine. At Monday's debate the churches combined, however, an organized opposition receiving strong support from the great financiers. This opposition made such progress and gained such strength that defeat of the mo-



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tion is now regarded as certain. The premier and leading members of the government, although leaving the decision to the house, are strongly opposed. Lord Hugh Cecil denounced the proposal as an approval of lower prestige of British public finance, which sets an example to all other parts of the empire. Sun Fein action has weakened official power to maintain order without providing any substitute. People refuse to give evidence against ordinary criminals, in addition to many political crimes, raids for arms, burning official property, firing shots into houses and cattle driving, there is a growing amount of non-political crimes of violence, theft, stealing cattle and robbing safes. The government is inviting a fresh struggle with the Sinn Fein over new regulations depriving political prisoners of special treatment in jails and directing that no hunger strikers be released because they deliberately court death. This undoubtedly means that some hunger strikers will die. The Sinn Fein will use their deaths to create a fresh tremendous campaign against the government. The situation creates a feeling almost of despair.

"There are only two possible policies for Ireland," says the Times correspondent, "political settlement or a really efficient, vigorous and intelligent administration."

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RETURNS HOME TO FIND JEWELS GONE

Montreal Woman in New York Suffers \$20,000 Loss

New York, Nov. 29.—It has become known that on last Saturday night burglars broke into the apartment of F. A. Skelton, a prominent Montrealer, on the tenth floor of the Bretton Hall Hotel, at Eighty-sixth street and Broadway, and stole about thirty diamonds, rings, watches, necklaces and other valuable pieces of jewellery.

Mrs. Skelton, who is recently making a bigger figure in Liberalism, declares that a state lottery would be a national disaster and give gambling the stamp of parliament acquiescence. The Daily News says it is madness charged to the full with the promise of tragedy.

When Mr. and Mrs. Skelton returned to their apartment about midnight last Saturday, after attending the theatre, they found everything topsy-turvy. Drawers from dressing tables, desks and bureaux were scattered on the tops of tables, and clothing had been thrown upon the floor by the visitors in their search for the jewels. Two jewel cases had been emptied and left open on one of the tables.

The condition of the apartment caused the belief that the unwelcome visitors either had finished their search or that they were seeking only jewellery, to the exclusion of small sums of money. A great mass of small articles, including a Canadian currency, was not disturbed. Several small and less valuable pieces of jewellery, apparently had escaped the sight of the burglars, or had not been covered by them.

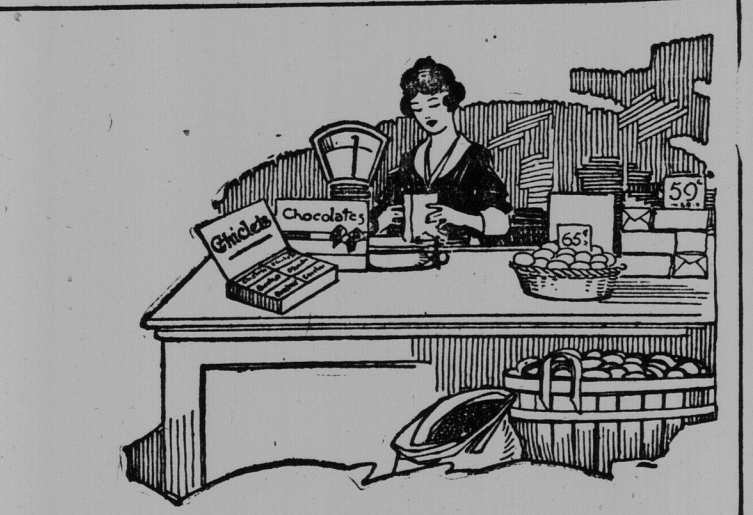
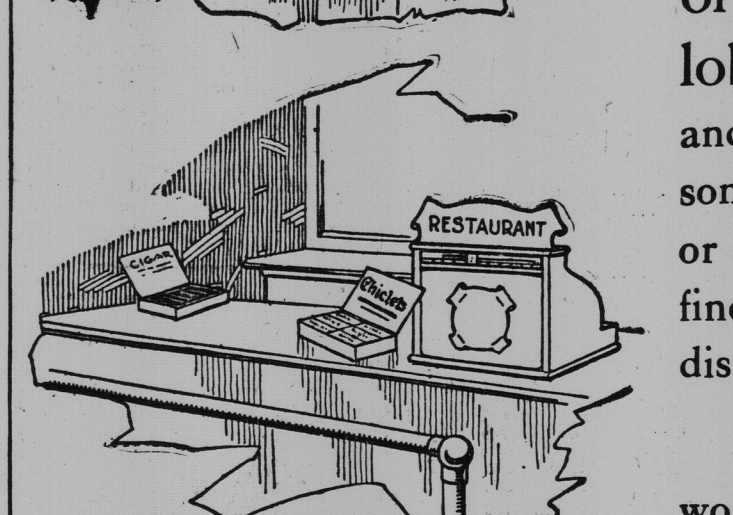
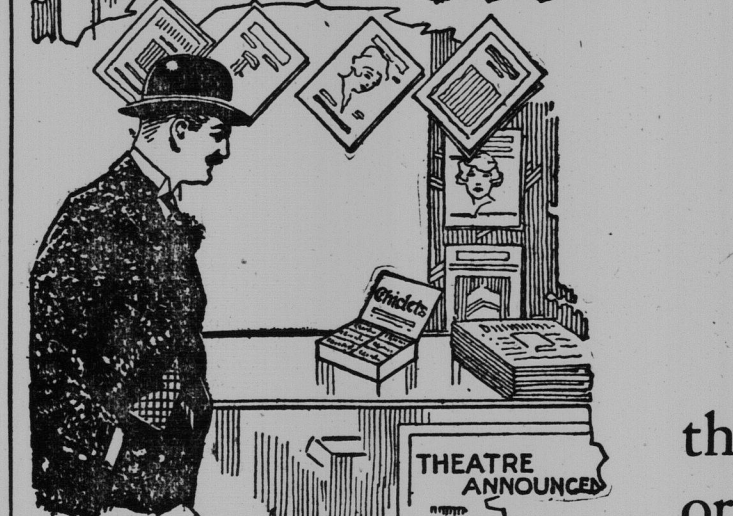
No Cue Found Yet.

A report of the burglary was made at once to the detectives of the West Sixty-eighth street police station, who advised the hotel management and Mrs. Skelton to say nothing whatever about the crime, so that the pursuit of the burglars would not be impeded. The hotel detectives immediately started to work on the case and a private detective agency was called in. No clue to the burglars has been found yet.

Neither Mr. Skelton nor himself cares to make an estimate of the loss, said Mrs. Skelton. "Some of the pieces were so old as to be considered treasures; others were new, made of diamonds and platinum, and were of unusual design. The loss is heavy."

No satisfactory theory has been advanced yet as to how the burglars reached the apartment on the tenth floor of the Bretton Hall Hotel. The hotel management and tenants reject the idea that the theft was what the police term "an inside job." Because those who live in the hotel are tenants of means, who lease apartments, it has been the policy of management to line servants only after careful investigation and then to retain them as long as they are willing to stay.

The imported meat (labelling) order will be welcome to housewives," says a London newspaper. "After November 12 the joint of imported meat must be so



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labeled when sold, exposed for sale, and when delivered at a customer's premises. The maximum prices for all imported meat, excepting sausages and bones, is 8d. per pound less than meat from home-killed stock, so that the peddling butcher will be taking a great risk if he tries to pass off Argentine beef as Scotch or New Zealand mutton as South Island.

Lord MacDonnell, in a letter to the London Times, writes: "Your correspondent's narrative seems to me to demonstrate that the true solution of the Irish question lies in the direction indicated by the findings of the convention, which have behind them the support of the fairest expression of moderate opinion in Ireland made in recent times. Only in the creation of a single Parliament for a United Ireland" does any hope of permanent appeasement exist. Coercion begets crime—crime begets coercion—a vicious circle. The circle must be broken if there is to be any improvement—and it can only be broken by the creation of an Irish parliament and the imposition upon Irishmen of responsibility for the conduct of their own affairs. No federal reorganization of the United Kingdom will enable us to dispense with this preliminary. To federalize we must have existing governments to work upon. I myself believe in the existence of a strong volume of constitutionalism in

provement in many directions. For example, there should be firms, directed by highly educated men, to which an author or could take his work as he does to a publisher of repute, showing that it will receive adequate consideration and if agreements result, that they will be respected in every particular."

Sir Rider Haggard is concerned over the delay in the production of the film versions of his romances. In a letter to the London Times he writes: "If, as I have heard, the cause of the block is that the cinema theatres are filled up with cheap 'lines' of dumped American films, some of the most unimpeachable character, I would ask further if there are no companies which are willing to give a preference to the British-born author and producer. We hear much talk of English ventures with enormous capital indeed, one is surprised to find the real offers to handle work come from America, South Africa and Italy. In England those concerned seem to focus the necessary costs of production, especially if these involve the payment of a royalty. I submit that the cinema business in this country is capable of im-

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