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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1920.

## MR. KING IS OPTIMISTIC.

Discussing Hon. Mackenzie King's outpourings regarding the Nova Scotia elections, the Montreal Gazette says: There is something exhilarating in the air of Newmarket, Ont. due, perhaps, to the salt breezes coming in from the Newmarket Canal. It is an atmosphere of hope, a hope which springs eternal and, though deferred, has no pernicious effect upon the heart. Mr. Mackenzie King has been breathing deep of these rare currents, with results as interesting as they are marked. Newmarket is the principal town in the riding of North York, where Mr. King appeared as a candidate after his North Waterloo in 1911. He is still a candidate there while representing a constituency in Prince Edward Island and intends to run there in the next election. The electors of the riding are far less divided upon this point than is Mr. King himself. The riding is now, and has been for the last nine years, very well represented by Mr. John Armstrong, who still retains the confidence of the electorate. A farmers' party in the constituency, including many of the Liberal stalwarts upon whose support Mr. King has been counting, have lately selected a candidate of their own, so that the King cause in North York appears to have wilted. Yet Mr. King, on departing from Newmarket a day or two ago, expressed himself as most confident. He thought that if the election were to be held now, the Liberals would certainly carry the seat. The condition which he lays down, that of an immediate election, is one not likely to be fulfilled, which is unfortunate from the standpoint of the Liberal Leader because the favorable conditions which he now imagines are unlikely to be present when the election does take place.

A search for the basis of Mr. King's mysterious enthusiasm leads to no very definite conclusion. The only hint supplied is a reference to the recent elections in Nova Scotia. The result in Nova Scotia, in the opinion of Mr. King, will "give a great impetus and inspiration" and "is a glorious indication of the strength of Liberalism," besides being "all part of a feeling against the reactionary methods of Toryism as exhibited by the Federal Government." What happened in Nova Scotia was that the Liberal Government, having been in office for thirty-eight years, continuing, was sustained with a practically unbroken majority, beginning a campaign fought on local issues, and not many even of them. Federal issues played no part, either directly or indirectly, in the contest, and Mr. King's assumption of a right to share in this particular triumph of Liberalism is one not easy for others to understand.

The Liberal Leader again makes the announcement that every election will be contested, and at least, he is standing with his feet upon the earth. A number of by-elections, due to ministerial changes and to other causes, are in prospect, and that the electors in the constituencies concerned should be afforded the opportunity of choosing between supporters of the Government and of the Opposition is a proper and desirable thing. Apart altogether from the curious contention of Mr. King and his friends that the Government is an "autocratic executive" and has "usurped all the rights of a free people to govern themselves," a contention which seems to require a fair amount of elucidation, it is undesirable that these elections should go by default. If the people of the Maritime Provinces are as "exasperated" over their treatment by the Federal Government during the last few years, as Mr. King thinks they are, the by-elections in those provinces will enable them to give expression to their resentment. There is, to be sure, a striking inconsistency in the effort to place the responsibility for alleged past omissions upon the shoulders of "a new Government with a new name and a new policy," but consistency is a rare jewel, and Mr. King must not be held too strictly to account. If his candidates are forthcoming, so much the better. The exasperated electors will then be in a position to demonstrate their resentment over inadequate ministerial representation in the past by the obviously intelligent course of rejecting such representation when it is offered to them.

## A GREAT LABOR STRUGGLE.

The decision of the British Industry Federation to resist all further demands for wage increases brings closer as inevitable and appalling struggle in Britain. The series of demands put forth by the big unions during the war were always granted, or compromised. During the trade rush since the armistice, the employees usually

got their way. Employers felt that in the national interest, production should be pushed, at any sacrifice, and reconstruction occur under favorable conditions. But, as a contemporary points out, markets in Britain are falling away, as they are on this Continent. The vacuum caused by war shortages is well filled. Prices have got to a pitch where they cannot be further supported. Many shipyards in Britain are almost idle. The cotton boom has collapsed. The Yorkshire mills are slackening down. Prices in many domestic lines have declined sharply. Continental production is increasing, and foreign goods find their way into British markets at low rates. When the big unions, in their automatic way, attempt to continue their dictation, they find the conditions compel the employers to refuse. Wage increases, along with short hours and slack output, cannot continue forever, and this winter is evidently going to be the time of significant struggles. The miners, for instance, threaten to tie up the whole country in September, because the Government refuses to grant wage increases, and, at the same time, lower the domestic price of coal. The steel business is facing threatened engineering strikes for wage increases. It is evident that when the United States can land steel in England at prices not higher than British steel, the time for firm refusals is at hand. The British unions contain a large extremist element, and the British masters of capital have considered it wise not to irritate the great mass of workers who wish reasonable terms, and compel them to support the extremists. But just as soon as economic conditions make a change of front advisable, Capital is bound to stop its "give-in" policy.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

Canadians as a whole, says the Mail and Empire, have patriotically accepted the taxation imposed in the last Dominion budget as necessary, and are glad that conditions here are much better than in other countries. An annual revenue of possibly \$400,000,000 from all sources is a large one for a population of about 5,000,000. The annual income of the Canadian people is estimated at \$3,000,000,000. Thus the Dominion Government requires about one-seventh of about 15 per cent, and represents most of this in the country. The British Government today is taking 32 per cent. of the whole national income of Britain, compared with 8 1/2 per cent. before the war. Its annual requirement is nearly seven billions, out of a grand aggregate from investments, trade and general production of about twenty billions. Before the war Britain was saving, for investment, about 15 per cent. of income. Now the saving is not more than 5 per cent. No estimate has been made of savings in Canada, because so much income is re-invested in expansion, but the opportunity to save is much larger in this country. In Britain and Canada, and in the United States and other countries Governments are spending far too much. During the war money was brought into the United States by the billion, for a great spending spree, and many new commitments were made by Governments that now require continuously heavy extra expenditures. But from any financial angle, the condition of Canadian business and the weight of our taxation compare most favorably with that of any other nation that pulled its full weight in the war.

The wars in Europe and the rumors of more wars have reached the stage where there is suggestion that arms be taken up against "holy" and "steam roller" Russia, a former ally who was to be a friend forever and ever, contrary to all the teachings of history. It was von Bethmann-Hollweg, when German Chancellor, who ejaculated on a momentous occasion: "Woe to the statesman who fails to read the signs of the times!" His warning was verified, and quickly. There are signs today that need to be heeded. Would anarchy be checked by another great declaration of war, or would it flare up and spread like a raging prairie or forest fire?

A Washington despatch says that many Americans are indifferent to the political situation in Europe. Well, the disturbed and disturbing centres are far away and home politics are looming large just now. Besides, the common American view is that the European peoples are old enough and experienced enough to look out for themselves.

The factory hands in the Trinidad sugar mills get very low wages compared to what they would get in the sugar industries of Louisiana or Cuba, the wages paid varying from 40 cents to \$1 per day, depending upon the kind of labor; the highest paid skilled labor of the sugar boilers, however, is about \$100 per month.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

The World Needs Him.  
 (New York Evening Sun.)  
 Americans will trust that the indisposition of the British Premier will not prove serious, and that he may continue actively in office. At the present critical juncture Great Britain and the world can ill afford to lose the benefit of his experience and his statesmanlike leadership.

"A Last Resort."  
 (Rockford Leader.)  
 Winnipeg street railway men have voted against a strike and will accept the award of a wage commission recently made. There is indication here that Winnipeg workers have seen the light and are convinced that the strike is not always the best way to get ahead. It is sometimes necessary but only as a last resort.

Archbishop Mannix.  
 (Calgary Herald.)  
 But the place where Mannix should be properly disciplined is at Rome. He is on his way to visit the Holy See. There he will be in direct communication with his holiness the Pope, who has declared himself neutral in the warfare being waged in Ireland and through his Irish archbishop advised the people to maintain from all excesses. This man, Mannix, has been preaching a doctrine that leads directly to violence and gives encouragement to men who break the law of the land. The Pope should have something to say to him that will make his ears tingle. The robe is a warrant from two viewpoints. First there is the safety of Britain to consider, and, secondly, there is the honor of the church to be safeguarded. If through Archbishop Mannix the Roman Catholic Church is to take sides in the political controversy now waging in Ireland, many well-wishers of the church will be disagreeably surprised.

## A BIT OF VERSE

The Arbutus in a Soul.

Up in a northern wind I found  
 A long arbutus trailing over a rock;  
 Its velvet stems held tiny buds of pink;  
 As fragrant as the rose.

And yet no gardener's hand had guided it,  
 Nor stirred with spade the solitary spot  
 Whereon that sweet flower grows.

How good of such a precious thing  
 Could ever reach that unfrequented  
 And twice its roots in such a barren soil.  
 None but the angels know.

Perchance they gathered from celestial fields  
 The germs of fairest blossoms which they cast  
 With lavish hand and unremitting zeal  
 Wherever breeze blow.

Out in a human wild I found  
 A deed of kindness done by one whose mind  
 Had not been touched by church or written creed;

Rough and uncouth was he  
 And yet in spite of lack in Bible lore,  
 He seemed the Master's Golden Rule to know.

How love had touched this heathen heart:  
 How he in his dark haunts had found  
 His Lord,  
 Whose name had never sounded in his ear.

None but the angels know  
 Perchance they fly to orbs in every land,  
 And glow in hearts of babies the heavenly seed,  
 That in Earth's most benighted we may find  
 The sweet arbutus grow.

—By Byron Stauffer.

## THE LAUGH LINE

An Abandoned Claim.

The Lawyer—Yes, you have a perfectly good cause of action for breach of promise, and, of course, the defendant will have the privilege of appearing in court and making his defense.

"The Client—If he's going to show up there's nothing 'do.' I don't want to show the world what a poor fish I've become."

The Robins, Too, Are Willing to Help.  
 Look around the neighborhood a bit, and perhaps you will be able to find a boy who is willing to pick your cherries.—Boston Globe.

Never had the slightest trouble about finding the boys. The trouble has been to find the cherries after the picking was completed.—Waltham Free Press-Tribune.

Happiness is a Little Thing.  
 Happiness is a little thing—  
 Aerial in its journeying;  
 Like a bird, it flies away  
 On its shy, unsteady wing!

Little things evoke it—those.  
 Pleasant from high, sunsoaked  
 trees;  
 Pains that rub  
 The so-called scrub;  
 Rose-breasts on a vagrant breeze.

Spoken, scented in a hedge;  
 Words that leap from edge to edge  
 Of walled lives;  
 A lock that shivers;  
 Meeting hands that leave a pledge.

Sudden thoughts that soar and sing—  
 Happiness is a little thing!

Father Was Stumped.  
 Mr. Binks was a commercial traveler, and only came home at long intervals. On one of his returns he was telling his two-year-old son all about his wanderings.

"And then I came home," he finished.  
 "And did you come in a train, daddy?" asked Johnny.

"Yes, sonny."  
 "And did you see the cars of the engine?"  
 "Of course not!" laughed daddy.

## Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

## THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. Pleasant.  
 Sports. Puds Simkins prefers not to wash his hands after a shower than once a day, saying the seldomer you wash them the more improvement you can notice after each time.

Vacation Notes. Picture post cards have been received from Leroy Shooster and Sam Cross, both saying on them, The water is fine, I wish you was here, but neither of them showing any water in the picture to prove it.

SHORT STORY BY SKINNY MARTIN.  
 The Disappointed Equilateral.  
 A squirrel climbed joyously up a tree, and immediately his expression changed for the worse.

If there's anything I hate, he said, it's a bump that looks like a nut.

The end.  
 Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Sid Hunt is a grate diplomat. When his mother tells him No he just keeps on asking her and asking her till she tells him Yes.

Society. Last week Mr. Artie Alexander tried to see if he could train his hair to stand up. He failed, but the majority won and Mr. Alexander stopped trying.

Lost and Found. Found—A pack of hair pins. See Puds Simkins. In case of more than one saying they are the owner, the one offering the highest reward will be considered the most seriously.

"Engines don't have ears."  
 "Oh, yes, they do," persisted the small boy. "Haven't you ever heard of the engineers, daddy?"—Pearson's Weekly.

Mrs. Vincent Astor—The dress I am wearing most frequently at present I bought ready-made.

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