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LONDON, FRIDAY, DEC. 17.

**EXIT LEOPOLD.**

King Leopold has gone the way of prince and pauper, leaving great riches and an evil name. He began life as the fairest prospect. His father, Leopold the First, was a great and good man, and his mother a saintly woman. The memory of Leopold the First will be revered by the British people for his paternal affection for his niece, Queen Victoria, and the disinterested care with which he watched over her early womanhood. His character shines through his voluminous correspondence, which makes up a large part of the recently-published "Letters of Queen Victoria." His virtue and wisdom made the new monarchy acceptable to the Belgian people, and at 20 years of age his son inherited a secure and comfortable throne.

Leopold the Second for many years appeared to be worthy of his father, and of the great house of Saxo-Coburg, which has given many strong men to nearly all the reigning families of Europe. His private life until middle age was at least outwardly respectable, and he showed a capacity for affairs which marked him out as one of the ablest men of his time. When the British Government refused to shoulder Stanley's stupendous design of the Congo Free State, Stanley turned instinctively to the King of the Belgians. Leopold's wonderful powers of organization and his genius for business were equal to the undertaking. For many years his administration of the Congo was regarded as a personal triumph, and a gain to civilization. But the temptation of riches proved his undoing. The rubber industry was a greater prize than the gold mines of the Transvaal. All authority was centred in Leopold, and he turned his rule into an engine of ruthless exploitation. The natives were enslaved, and ground under the juggernaut of commerce. Their cries have been heard by the whole world, but they have been heeded only by the English-speaking peoples. The British Government forced the King to relinquish his trust to the Belgian Government, which has promised substantial reforms.

The Congo atrocities were the crowning infamy of a life which had been long stained by a course of profligacy which shocked Europe. He presented the most disgusting of all spectacles—a dissolute old age. He was heartless in his treatment of his wife and children, and perhaps was responsible for the scandalous conduct of two of his daughters. The royal family of Belgium became a by-word. Its good name may be redeemed by the successor to the throne, Leopold's nephew, whose reputation is clean, and who is respected and admired by the Belgian people.

**A CHAMPION OF THE PEERS.**

The effort in this country to deny the House of Lords, gives but little credit to the intelligence of Canadians.—London Free Press.  
It is only the hereditary element of the House of Lords that evokes ridicule and contempt.—London Advertiser.  
The hereditary element includes Dufferin, Lansdowne, Aberdeen, Minto, Grey, whom Canadians have known intimately. They include Salisbury, Balfour, Onslow, Elgin, Argyle and many others.

Do the names of the appointed lords stand out more prominently than these?—London Free Press.  
Salisbury and Dufferin are dead. Not ten Canadians have heard of Onslow. Balfour is an elected peer; he does not have a seat in the House of Lords by right of birth. Argyle has made no mark either in politics or literature, both of which he has essayed. Elgin was dropped from the present Government because he was a failure as colonial secretary. Neither Aberdeen nor Minto nor Norfolk is a statesman of the first rank; Minto especially made no impression upon the Canadian people. Earl Grey is a credit to the aristocracy. Lansdowne is a public man of first-class ability, though absolutely reactionary in his political ideas.

Our contemporary has not produced an impressive list. It says there are many others. Excepting Rosebery, who are they? We challenge it to name a dozen other peers, sitting in the House of Lords by the accident of birth, who are in any way distinguished. Among the appointed peers are Morley, the greatest intellect in the House of Lords; Curzon, Lister, St. Aldwyn (formerly Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chancellor of the exchequer), James, Loreburn, Rothschild, Cromer, Courtney, Macdonnell, Milner, Pirrie, Welby, Crewe, Alverstone, Avebury, Brassey, Mountstephen, Strathcona, Kitchener, Roberts, Wolseley. Cana-

dians have heard of all of these. They are men eminent in various walks of life. Compared with them, the hereditary lords make a poor showing indeed.

But our local contemporary ignores the point of the argument: that the bulk of the membership of the House of Lords is composed of men of no personal distinction who are legislators solely because they are eldest sons. As Lord Rosebery says, "their names do not greatly count in a division." But their brute force has been invoked by the official Unionist leaders to destroy the budget, and nearly every Liberal measure of the past four years. It is this rabble that brings discredit upon the House of Lords.

Why do newspapers in a democratic country like Canada rush to the defence of such an anachronism? They are not even under a party obligation to do so. We don't profess to understand their motives, but perhaps it is a survival of the spirit of toadyism which so long upheld the family compact in this country.

**HUDSON BAY RAILWAY ROUTES.**

The report on Hudson Bay Railway surveys, which has just been issued in blue book form, dated Sept. 8 last, covers this season's operations of the surveys.

The chief engineer of the surveys, Mr. John Armstrong, opens by stating that four parties were organized, and started to work at various points between The Pas (a point about sixty miles north of the Manitoba boundary) and Port Churchill, on Hudson Bay, dividing the territory to be covered into sections of approximately 120 miles each. A fifth and smaller party was organized for the purpose of exploratory work, whereby much general information was obtained.

In his comments on Mr. Armstrong's report, Mr. M. J. Butler, deputy minister and chief engineer of the department, says there is no room for doubt that Nelson is a much better harbor than Churchill. The line via Nelson is also shorter by 67 miles, the country through which it runs is more promising, and the possibility of local business is altogether with the Nelson route. There is a probability that a fair proportion of this route is available for settlement, whereas on the Churchill route there is no such prospect beyond Split Lake, where the lines separate.

Engineer Armstrong says the Churchill route, 477 miles approximately, is too long for three engine divisions in this hard winter climate, while the Nelson route, 410 miles, can probably be handled by three train divisions, as owing to the better grades the 435-mile Nelson division will not be a harder task for the engine than the 120-mile one from Churchill division. This would mean four sets of buildings on the Nelson route, and five sets on the Churchill route.

The estimated cost of a railway via the Churchill route (including harbor work, piers, dredging, but exclusive of lighthouse and buoying), is placed at \$19,108,672, as compared with \$16,426,340, via the Nelson route.

The report deals with the natural resources of this northern region, and the opinion is expressed that the timber which may be available by the opening of the Nelson route is of much greater value than generally supposed. The whole country is full of lakes and streams, most of the latter being bordered by acres of timber of commercial value. In regard to minerals, the surveys have nothing to add to what has already been made known by the geological survey.

The distance from Port Nelson to Liverpool is 3,200 miles, against 3,007 miles from Montreal to Liverpool.

Mr. W. F. Maclean advises Canada to spend ten or twenty million dollars at once in Dreadnoughts. He might change his mind if he circulated the farmers of South York on the subject.

Premier Roblin, of Manitoba, is still sneering at Canada's "tin-pot navy," and says it will lead to Canadian independence. That would be a big task for a tin-pot navy. What does Mr. Roblin think of it? He is a "tin-pot navy" man, too.

The Toronto World says that the Conservative machine in Toronto is injuring the party by high-handed methods. It defeated Mr. Kemp in East Toronto, and, according to the World, so imperilled Dr. Pyne's chances that he had to have the east riding gerrymandered to save his seat. The World is friendly to the Whitney Government and its confession as to the gerrymander is interesting. We in Middlesex are quite prepared to believe it.

How long would the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Congregationalists of Canada tolerate a system under which they paid taxes for schools in which no Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist or Congregationalist could teach? They would offer something stronger than passive resistance. Yet this is the system in England which the House of Lords refuses to allow the Government to amend. Is it any wonder that the Nonconformists of Great Britain regard the crusade against the peers as a holy war?

Sir Edward Grey says it would be dangerous to tax colonial wheat. The assertion is too sweeping. Canadians would have no right to protest if the British electors voted for the policy of taxing Canadian wheat. A British tax on Canadian grain would be no more unjust than the Canadian tax on British goods of every kind. But it would be a disadvantage to the Canadian farmer, even if the foreigner were taxed higher in the British market. The question that suggests itself is, Why should Canadians give their moral support to a policy which would

put a duty on Canadian products where none exists at present? Some Canadian journals are taking this course. It is a strange way of "thinking imperially."

**BUCKSKIN HORSE WAS CAUSE OF A TIE VOTE**

Board of Works Discussed the Purchase at Length Last Night

At the meeting of the board of works last evening, the buckskin horse was again in evidence.

Ald. Saunders thought that a horse was necessary, and that the committee should purchase one. He pointed out that there was money set aside for such purposes, and that the committee should recommend to the council that the horse be bought. If no greater speed was exhibited in the purchase than in the past it would be well on to summer before a horse is secured.

Ald. Cooper and Ald. Rose still objected to the purchase, while Ald. Gerry favored it. The vote was a tie, and it will again be considered by the council as a negative vote.

Dufferin Avenue East.

Tile will be laid on Dufferin avenue east. City Engineer Graydon reported that the city solicitor had informed him that he could safely proceed with what work there was to be done.

"That is what we have been waiting for," said Ald. Saunders. "I move that tile be laid on the street immediately. We should have the work in hand at as early a date as possible. Now that we can do something, let us hurry it to a conclusion."

The motion carried, and work will commence at once.

Mr. W. Peacock presented a petition for the continuance of the sewer on Beaufield avenue. It was sufficiently signed, and the work will be proceeded with at once.

The claim of I. Left for \$275 for damages to rig through defective street, was found to be proper, and it was ordered to be paid.

John Curme claimed \$75 for damages to horse and rig through falling into a sewer on Christie street. The committee decided to offer him \$50 in full of all damages.

It was decided to purchase a new snow plow to cost \$35. The Wellington street bridge needs repairing. The committee will purchase \$300 worth of lumber to make the necessary repairs.

Three cars of brick for streets will also be purchased.  
Those present were Ald. Gerry, chairman, Ald. Saunders, Ald. Rose, Ald. Cooper, City Engineer Graydon and Secretary Wright.

**GOVT. INQUIRY INTO THE FERRY WRECK**

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—The loss of the ferry Bessemer II, was brought up in the House this afternoon when Mr. Claude Macdonell, of Toronto, drew the attention of the Minister of Marine to the loss of life caused by this and similar wrecks. He said there were no proper marine signals at Port Stanley, Port Burwell or Port Rowley.

Hon. Mr. Brodeur said he had given instructions to have a careful inquiry into the matter.

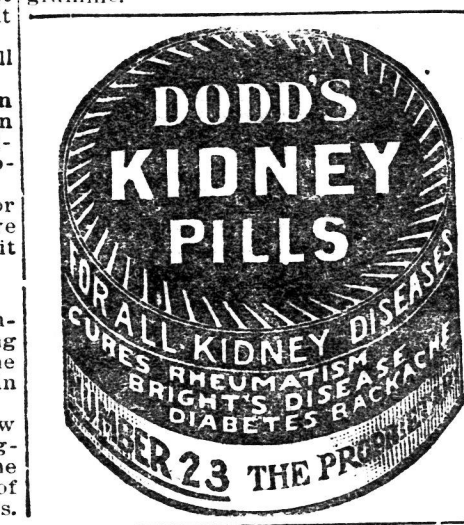
Mr. Marshall asked if it was not the case that petitions for lights had been presented to his department.

Mr. Brodeur said he could not undertake to answer these questions without due notice.

**FREE CHURCHES FOR MR. ASQUITH**

London, Dec. 17.—So far as their leaders may do it, the Free Churches are tonight definitely and irrevocably committed to the support of Mr. Asquith in the election fight. Among those on the platform at a great meeting addressed by Mr. Lloyd-George, chancellor of the exchequer, were prominent ministers, as well as laymen, of the Methodists, Wesleyans, Baptists and Congregationalists.

Strong expressions are being given utterance by Free Church-leaders concerning the hereditary principle of the Lords, their treatment of non-conformists and their action in vetoing the House of Commons' financial programme.



**THOR**  
FRANK C. HOOPER,  
NEXT THE ADVERTISER.  
**BETTER THAN EVER**  
**Christmas Neckwear**  
**50c**  
Rich, handsome silks, in various patterns and colors.  
A PRETTY BOX WITH EVERY TIE.  
**An Ideal Gift For a Man**

**CHRISTMAS**  
Too Often Signifies a Confusion of Trifles  
Buy a  
**GERHARD HEINTZMAN PIANO**  
And you will not only have the best Piano made, but you will have an instrument that will give you pleasure the balance of your lifetime.  
**OUR TERMS AND PRICES ARE RIGHT.**  
**W. McPHILLIPS**  
189 DUNDAS STREET, LONDON.  
Store Open Evenings Until Christmas.

**CHAPMAN'S**  
MORNING SHOPPING IS NECESSARY IF YOU WISH TO SEE THE BEST AND DO THE BEST.  
**DOLLS**  
There are still plenty of Dolls in this wonderful Doll section. Buying has been enormous, yet we feel safe in inviting you to come to this Doll Section right up to the last minute, believing that we can give you better service and show a more complete stock than any other store in the city, to say nothing of the values.  
**Kid Body Dolls to Dress**  
Beautiful Kid-Body Dolls, cork-stuffed, patent riveted elbow, knee and hip joints; full kid legs; fine bisque forearms, beautifully featured bisque head; curly hair and moving eyes; removable shoes and stockings. Prices ..... **50c to \$2.50**  
Kidette at, each ..... **25c**  
**French Dressed Dolls 25c to \$2.75**  
In this wonderful collection there is no less than twenty-five different styles of Dolls, at **25c** each, and at **50c, 75c and \$1.00** there is a great variety to choose from, and others, that customers tell us are the prettiest Dolls they have ever seen, ranging up to **\$2.75**. Make a point to see the Dolls today. Eskimo Dolls at **50c and 75c**.  
**Great Selling of Books**  
Our popular-priced Books, **17c, 25c, 40c and 50c** are of particular interest to superintendents, teachers or committees who are buying books for prizes and Christmas tree gifts. Special attention will be given to these and others desirous of making careful selections.  
**Overcoats**  
**Extra Bargain Saturday**  
**\$6.48**  
**Values Go Up To \$15.00**  
With not a coat in the lot worth less than \$12.00. All are Progress Brand guaranteed Coats, and a splendid assortment to choose from. Among them will be found some of those light grey herringbone cloths with black velvet collars, also plain grey, plain black meltons and fancy tweeds and double-breasted Scotch tweed great coats. All the latest cuts and perfect-fitting. Actual \$12.00, \$13.50 and \$15.00 values. Saturday ..... **\$6.48**  
**Three Specials in Ladies' Coats**  
Ladies' Long Black Winter Coats, of fine quality imported mantle cloth, 50 and 52 inches long. Stylish semi-fitting models. Regularly priced at \$15, \$16 and \$18. On sale Saturday at ..... **\$10.75**  
Ladies' Long Black Coats of heavy Kersey Cloth, 50 and 52 in. long; body and sleeves lined. Popular style winter coats. Regularly priced at \$10.50 and \$12.50. On sale Saturday at ..... **\$7.50**  
Ladies' Colored Broadcloth Coats, very handsome styles in navy, green and brown, the most approved winter models. Regularly \$15 to \$18.50. On sale Saturday at ..... **\$10.75**  
**Hearth Rugs \$2.58**  
About 52 Axminster, Velvet and Reversible Smyrna Hearth Rugs, size 30x60 and 27x54. In soft shadings of green, fawn and oak and a few animal designs. These are worth in the regular way \$2.75 to \$3.50. Saturday only the price will be ..... **\$2.58**  
**J. H. Chapman & Co. 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.**

**Something Unusual For Christmas Gifts**  
The craze for something new, or something odd or something different has led people to hunt the different stores day after day for articles that will prove decidedly satisfactory for Christmas Gifts. There is no need to worry longer, for we can easily settle that question for you, as we have for hundreds of others.  
These goods we mention today were bought months ago, but have only just arrived, and we have marked all at prices to clear before Christmas.  
**Matting Boxes**  
Boxes of different sizes as Shirtwaist, Skirt, Hat and various other sizes, made of Japanese matting of different colorings. Artistically designed and trimmed with weathered or fumed oak.  
These are gifts that any lady would be proud to possess. Every one is beautiful, exceptional in design and so useful, while all are exceptional in price.  
**Novelties in Weathered Oak**  
Book Racks at **\$1.00** and up to **\$3.00**  
Magazine Stands at **\$1.00** up to **\$3.00**  
Fern Dishes at ..... **\$2.50 and \$3.50**  
Sewing Baskets. **\$1.50, \$3.50, \$4.50**  
Ash Trays at ..... **\$1.00**  
Smoker's Sets at **\$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00**  
**India Seats**  
These articles seem to stand out in relief against many of the articles usually given at Christmas time as gifts, and this will be your happiest chance to get something different. These India seats are original "Alice Sit by the Fire" Seats. A novelty for London.  
**Motto-Placques**  
No matter how large or small your pocket-book you will find something among these Motto-Placques to suit your idea, for they are real smart. Made of weathered oak, illuminated in different colors, about 6 inches wide and 15 inches long. Suitable for den, hall, or living-room, at **50c, 75c and \$1.00**.  
**Dinner Gongs**  
The Christmas Gift is always doubly welcome when it is practical as well as merely ornamental. Every lady loves a Dinner Gong and here is something that will surely please. Designed in weathered oak, having the famous Campanile Chimes, at **\$5, \$6 and \$7** each.  
**A. Screaton & Co.**  
Open Saturday and Every Evening Next Week