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London, Ont., Wednesday, October 25.

British Politics.

THE formation of a new British cabinet has been announced, and it seems likely that Bonar Law will be able to get in shape to go to the country. From several of the parties comes the announcement that they intend appealing to the electorate as straight parties, without any talk of fusion or alliance. The determination is evidently to end group government.

It is well that all this sort of talk should be well ventilated before the election, because it is impossible to tell what will happen after the people have rendered their decision at the polls. It may be that it will be found necessary for two of the groups to come together to form a government that will have the ability to carry on. It is not an easy matter to turn all at once from coalition to straight party. Dispatches from London do not indicate that the air is clearing to any extent.

Bonar Law's ascendancy to the premiership has a peculiar interest to Canadians for the reason that he is a native of this country and is the first Canadian to achieve the distinction of a premiership in the Mother Country. Those who are close to him claim that his health is such that he cannot carry on the work of leading the government, while others, more critical perhaps, are inclined to the view that he will not be able to carry over 200 seats.

It is interesting to note that in the new cabinet just announced seven peers find places in a total of 17, which is quite an increase over the last cabinet of the Lloyd George government, in which only two titles were to be found.

The Conservative party will now have to set to work seriously to formulate a policy, and the same can be said of almost of any other party in England. The Irish question and its treatment was a Lloyd George policy, so was the action on the Indian and Egyptian problems. In fact, many of the policies of the late government are of such a nature that the lines laid down by the GEORGIAN government will almost have to be followed out.

The British situation is going to hold the center of the stage for the next few weeks. Canada has never before been so intensely interested in British politics, and the working out of the tangle for tangle it is—will be watched with unusual interest from this side of the Atlantic.

Men Want To Work.

WHILE governments of provinces and of cities are busy with their declarations that they do not intend to give charity for unemployment this winter, it might be well to point out that the number of people who want to get a living this way is very much in the minority.

Here are two opinions of working men in London furnished to this paper:

"I was out of work for six weeks this summer, and it was the worst time I ever put in. Of course we were hard up and things had to be cut to the bone at the house, but that was not the worst of it. I felt out of sorts all the time. It seemed to me that I ceased being a real man when I could not provide for the folks at home. The day I found a job was a red-letter affair at our house, and I feel all right now."

The other man said: "I called at one place in the city eight times, and on the last occasion asked the superintendent if he objected to me calling again. He informed me that I had better keep right on for he might need a man soon. The next time he took me on. That is almost 18 months ago. I don't want to be out of work again."

No doubt it would be possible to get scores of similar statements. There are those who want to loaf, but they are few in this district—very few.

Working for the things that a family needs is the ambition of the normal men, and praise be, most men are normal.

Coal Outlook.

THE soft coal situation begins to look better for the family with an empty coal bin.

The mines are turning out about 10,000,000 tons a week. The figure would be 12,000,000 tons if the railroads were able to furnish enough

gondola and hopper coal cars, and if the mines had the orders.

The actual shortage in production is not as big as most people imagine. From the first of the year to Oct. 16 the country's production of bituminous (soft) coal totaled about 290,000,000 tons.

Roughly, this was only 24,000,000 tons less than was mined during the corresponding period of last year.

Two things are helping counteract this shortage. They are:

First: Exports of soft coal from United States so far this year, compared with the corresponding period of previous years, are about 7,000,000 tons less than in 1921, and 14,000,000 tons less than in 1920.

Second: United States will enter 1923 without the customary 30,000,000 tons of soft coal normally carried over into the new year as a surplus or reserve in bins.

Anthracite (hard) coal is bound to be scarce nearly everywhere this winter.

The hard coal mines so far this year have produced only about 31,000,000 tons, against 73,000,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1921.

The real danger of a soft coal shortage lies in the fact that many who customarily burn hard coal will have to use soft coal.

However, with exports low and corporations buying hand-to-mouth instead of building up big reserve stocks, the outlook is that the country will be able to pull through the winter without any acute shortage in the average community.

In a rough way, it looks as if North America will have enough coal in the furnace but none too much in the bin.

The winter market is developing as a matter of buying in small quantities when needed, same as sugar and flour.

The northwest, which is always the danger spot when a coal shortage threatens, so far this season has received by Great Lakes route about 8,000,000 tons of soft coal below normal. It is too late to catch up with this shortage, so the deficit will have to be shipped by railroads.

Statistically the general coal situation does not look alarming, unless the market is manipulated from the inside or the buyers stampede.

National Fish Day.

WHEN, five or six years ago, the idea of celebrating a national fish day annually was conceived, it was heartily indorsed by fishery experts and the press of the country generally as an excellent means of attracting the attention of the public to the copious supplies of fish which we are leaving neglected. It is gratifying to note that since the institution of this event the per capita consumption of fish in Canada has been increased four or five pounds per capita, but it is hoped within the next decade to have our people making proper use of their great natural food.

National Fish Day is not designed as a commercial proposition, but as a national reminder to Canadians and a public plea as well. When it is considered that we have by far the most extensive fishery resources in the world and that we rank only third among fish-producing nations, one will appreciate the necessity of stimulating demand and encouraging the use of a limitless food resource so conveniently placed at our disposal. Last year the industry experienced a tremendous slump, a falling off, in value, of 30 per cent from the previous year. It is possible that such a diminution in revenue has sent us below third position as a fish producer. The loss of revenue was due to a falling off of demand at home, poor markets where we are able to sell, and inability of other markets to purchase because of the exchange situation.

Special attention should be drawn to the local market just at this time because of the recent introduction of a tariff by the United States against fresh fish and the increasing rates on prepaid fish. Heretofore we have been exporting about 45 per cent of our total production and the United States has been taking about half of this amount. It will be readily seen that there is bound to be a temporary dislocation of trade, and if the industry is to thrive the local market must be induced to consume increased quantities of fish.

LITTLE 'TISERS

Would fat reducers be classed as reformers?

The gulf stream is running wrong. It was all right when we had a Liberal government in Ontario.

German gliders hold the record for staying up in the air. There are so many paper marks in Germany

that it's hard to find a clear landing place.

A society for the abolition of corsets has been formed. The man who draws pictures and writes ads for the corset companies is going to be out of luck.

New York street railway is trying out a device to detect fake coins. The Vancouver Province says if the thing is a success it will find a big field in being attached to collection plates at church.

Some of the racers in autos clip off a couple of miles in a minute. But when that chap in an aeroplane went past at 230 miles an hour these two-mile-a-minute students went back to the truck class.

Some merchants think people who stop in front of their windows are looking at the goods with a view of buying them. Many times this is wrong, as the fair shoppers have discovered that there is a mirror in the window.

We used to imagine that things were carried on with more dignity in England than in Canada. There was supposed to be more consideration in debate, and even in the heat of argument the temper was kept well below the boiling point. The blow-up in England has put a crimp in these ideals, for the leaders there at the very outset of the campaign are using personal attacks with a vengeance, and are pouring vitriol rather than oil on the political waters.

Wall Papering

—BY A. R. K.

SOME bright chap has gone and done the thing.

We always knew it would happen—always said it would—in fact, even ventured the remark once that the man who brought out the right machine would make a pocket of money out of it.

Yes, sir. There's a machine out now for putting paper on the wall, and on the ceiling, too.

Did you ever try to hang paper on the ceiling? Most people do some time or other. Either when they have been reading something about decorating, or when they have streaks of economy breaking out and heading for the surface.

We did. And in order that it might not cost too much to experiment, we got some paper that was fairly cheap, just a few odd cents a roll, so that if we did spoil the job there wouldn't be much lost.

Two kitchen chairs and a plank completed the derrick apparatus. Strips had to be cut 14 feet long and doubled up about six times to make transportation possible.

The next thing was to get that strip unfolded and stuck on the ceiling in anything that looked like a straight line.

Before the start was made the children had been sent three blocks away from the house and told not to come home until it got dark.

Well, sir, honest now, did you ever try to make one of these much doubled up strips of paper, fourteen feet long, try to behave itself and lie down just like a piece of wall paper should do? You know it was well lathered with paste at the start, and by the time you tinker and handle and fold and drop and pick up and look at and see and inspect and turn that strip it doesn't take any thing like a shot from a sixteen-inch cannon to make a hole in that strip of decoration.

It's a strange sensation to make the sticky thing take a toe hold at the end of the room and then proceed to take the next fold out. Well, about that time the rest of the string is generally resting on the head, and beltimes playing horse collar, with the paper hanger looking through.

When we put paper on the ceiling we had two kitchen chairs and a plank. These we mentioned before. Then there was the broom to help hold the stuff in place. Then the clothes brush and the whisk, the stray castor out of the spare bed to roll the joints, and a few other trinkets. It's always well to have a lot of things to work with. Sometimes a pitcher with a fast ball gets knocked out of the box, and along will come a chap who tosses slow ones, and he wins the game. So with putting paper on the ceiling. Sometimes the broom catches hold of the thing the right way, while at other times you've got to go right up and take hold of the thing with your fist and strangle it into submission.

The big trick is to get one strip planted right and straight, just the same as when you're setting out the Dutch sets in the spring. Well, we couldn't get the first row of ceiling paper planted. The theory about the world being round with the exception of a piece that's flattened out at the end is right. I can just imagine what fun they'd have trying to make wall paper lay still on a piece that's flattened out a little on the end.

And all the time it was getting

darker, and for fear the children would come home and sneak upstairs about the time I had tried to nail the seventh strip on the place where the first one should have gone, the suggestion was made that it be called a day's work.

Before we quit, I washed off the marks so that the real wall paper hanger who started early the next day wouldn't know that he had been called in on a life-saving expedition. And next day at noon I wallowed up the stairs, quite unconcerned like, looked at the ceiling, all done slick as a button, and the man sitting there quietly having a bit of a smoke after his lunch. Then it was that I tried to figure out whether it was Shakespeare or Sir Walter Scott who wrote that little ballad about the cobbler sticking to his last. Whichever one did it, he was hitting on all sixes when the thought came to him.

It's Time For Colds Don't Get One.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—The season of sickness approaches. The air will become dusty, full of germs, and next day at noon I wallowed up the stairs, quite unconcerned like, looked at the ceiling, all done slick as a button, and the man sitting there quietly having a bit of a smoke after his lunch. Then it was that I tried to figure out whether it was Shakespeare or Sir Walter Scott who wrote that little ballad about the cobbler sticking to his last. Whichever one did it, he was hitting on all sixes when the thought came to him.

The story of the Nile Valley from the dawn of its traceable history until the time of Alexander the Great is not very dissimilar from that of Babylonia; but while Babylonia lay open on every side to invasion, Egypt was protected by desert to the west and by desert and sea to the east, while to the south she had only negro peoples. Consequently her history is less broken by the invasions of strange races than is the history of Assyria and Babylon, and until toward the eighth century B. C., when she fell under an Ethiopian dynasty, whenever a conqueror did come into her story, he came in from Asia by way of the Isthmus of Suez.

The Stone Age remains in Egypt are of very uncertain date; there are Paleolithic and Neolithic remains. It is not certain whether the Neolithic pastoral people who left these remains were the direct ancestors of the later Egyptians, or many respects they differed entirely from their successors.

Outfit Cannibals.

They buried their dead, but before they buried them they cut off the bodies and apparently ate portions of the flesh. They seem to have done this out of a feeling of reverence for the departed; the dead were "eaten with honor," according to the phrase of Mr. Flinders Petrie. It may have been that the survivors hoped to retain thereby some vestige of the strength and virtue that had died. Traces of similar savage customs have been found in the long narrow valleys scattered over Western Europe before the spreading of the Aryan peoples, and they have pervaded negro Africa, where they are only dying out at the present time.

About 5000 B. C., or earlier, the traces of these primitive peoples cease, and the true Egyptians appear on the scene. The former people were but builders, and at a comparatively low stage of Neolithic culture; the latter were already a civilized Neolithic people; they possessed a system of picture writing, and they were working stone. Very soon they passed into the Bronze Age. They possessed a system of picture writing, and they were working stone. Very soon they passed into the Bronze Age. They possessed a system of picture writing, and they were working stone. Very soon they passed into the Bronze Age.

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