

Only Split In Cabinet Would Bring Elections In Old Land At Present

News of the Empire Metropolis in Letter to Times
—The Prince of Wales and His Jewelry— The
"End of the World" Alarm—Fur Robberies in
City's Streets.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, Dec. 24.—Once again is the rumor of an early general election revived in London, and it finds some support as well as considerable approval at Westminster. But after careful inspection one can find little ground for accepting the news as reliable. It is based on the government's postponement of important measures, and on the difficulty foreseen by most onlookers when the next budget comes to be introduced. It is stated that the ministry are shelving their big problems and meaning to evade their financial embarrassments, especially the pledge given by Austen Chamberlain about no further increase in taxation. The Labor party are especially said to be convinced that they can see the battle coming.

But the most reliable prophets are not convinced yet. Ministers do not usually commit suicide without better cause than a young coalition government with a powerful majority which is succeeding in getting business through the House of Commons quite easily. The only possible explanation of a sudden decision to go to the country would be acute differences in the cabinet, of which there has been no rumor lately, though, of course, the speech delivered at Manchester was rather disturbing.

Bolshevik High Hand.
The failure of the O'Grady-Litvinoff negotiations rather takes the advanced Labor people in London by surprise. Their theory has been all along that the Bolsheviks desired only to be at peace with us, and that the allied governments had conspired against Russian democratic expression in obedience to powerful reactionary influences. There never was a word of truth in this ridiculous theory, but it has been doggedly held in certain quarters with all the pertinacity of ignorance.

Now that so perfectly democratic and well disposed a plenipotentiary as Mr. O'Grady, M. P., has found the demands of M. Litvinoff on behalf of the Lenin group too much for even his toleration, we may possibly have a little more sense in advanced Labor's Russian theories. Anyone who weighs the proposals put forward by the Bolsheviks at this conference, and rejected by Mr. O'Grady, must realize how thoroughly preposterous and impractical are the demands which the Allies are asked to accept.

International Currency.
An international currency scheme has now been drawn up by Marshall Stevens, M. P., who is a member of the International Trade Conference, and Professor Irving Fisher of Yale University, of the department of political economy, for encouraging trade among the countries of the world. The proposed monetary commission of the allied powers. One proposal for submission is the

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issue by the allied governments of a guarantee currency, to be maintained, withdrawn, or re-issued in such quantities as to hold an international commodity index at constant level. Such a currency would not only standardize payments for inter-allied transactions, but in practice would also have to be accepted as liquidation by other nations. This currency, issued as required by the allied governments, would in the first instance be placed in circulation by the purchase of war bonds, in proportion to the several war bond issues, thus saving interest upon the war bonds to the extent of the utilization of the paper currency. The plan would supplement the existing exchange business without eliminating it.

Retarded Retribution.
The public at large takes precious little interest nowadays in the low-octane measures for bringing to trial those enemy subjects who have been guilty of barbarism in the war. So the announcement that a conference of allied representatives is now deliberating in London on the names to be placed on the lists for trial is of no particular concern. A long list of alleged offenders has been prepared, but there is no certainty of bringing anything like all the gross criminals to justice. And the ex-Kaiser, whose fate is most interesting of all, is unlikely to be tried at all.

The difficulties in the way of a conviction on the charges formulated by the lawyers who dealt with his case at the bidding of the Peace Conference are very formidable, and added to these there is the question of extradition. The Dutch government is reported to be strongly hostile to allowing it.

Prince and His Jewellery.
The late King Edward left his wonderful collection of rings and pins to the Prince of Wales, of whom he was very fond, and also knowing that the present king had little taste in that direction. But the prince takes after his father in this respect, and makes little use of personal ornament. He wears hardly any jewellery at all, and in dress generally is particularly anxious to avoid anything unusual or conspicuous. To be in any small respect dressed out of the ordinary style makes him nervous. The only display he seems rather fond of is his new war decorations. In evening dress he is rarely seen without this. A public dinner the other night he left his white lawn handkerchief on his chair. It was secured by a keen-eyed guest, who promptly decided to "win" it, and make a family heirloom of it. It bears the royal cypher and the prince's feathers.

A Danger Period.
Appropos the festive celebrations of our first peace Christmas, a big city wine and spirit merchant has been pointing out some practical dangers ahead. He declares that the restrictions of the war period have undoubtedly been beneficial. They have inculcated habit of self-control to some extent, and have enabled manly people to curb tendencies that were harmful. He is quite disposed to believe that the effect will be permanent, especially as the old hard drinking habit is now dead, and the younger generation has a much more sensible appreciation of the right uses of alcohol.

The Real Idle Rich.
Fleet street is possibly, of all the streets in London Town, the least given to philandering with circumstance. It is a busy street, cynical and hustling, and yet I notice that I notice that it seems to furnish a bigger and more pertinacious gallery of idle spectators for the road mending operations now in progress than any other. All day long a crowd stands gazing, with almost hazy-eyed country bumpkin intensity, at the ingenious mechanics who manufacture pavement while you wait. These artificers come along, roll off a patch of pavement, dig up the old setting, and with mysterious rites proceed to sprinkle a mixture of tar and cement, on which they place a top coating of ruddy aromatic dust. They then from this mixture with special tools, and, lo and behold, the pavement is made.

To Relieve Catarrh, Catarrhal Deafness And Head Noises
Persons suffering from catarrhal deafness, or who are growing hard of hearing and have head noises, will be glad to know that this distressing affliction can usually be successfully treated at home by an internal medicine that in many instances has effected complete relief after other treatments have failed. Sufferers who could scarcely hear have had their hearing restored to such an extent that the tick of a watch was plainly audible seven or eight inches away from either ear. Therefore, if you know of someone who is troubled with head noises or catarrhal deafness, cut out this formula and hand it to them and you may have been the means of saving some poor sufferer perhaps from total deafness. The prescription can be prepared at home and is made as follows:
Secure from your druggist 1 oz. Parmit (Double Strength). Take this home and add to it 1/2 pint of hot water and a little granulated sugar, stir until dissolved. Take one tablespoonful four times a day.
Parmit is used in this way not only to reduce by tonic action the inflammation and swelling in the Eustachian Tubes, and thus to equalize the air pressure on the drum, but to correct any excess of secretions in the middle ear, and the results it gives are nearly always quick and effective.
Every person who has catarrh in any form, or distressing rumbling, hissing sounds in their ears, should give this recipe a trial.

by way of comment, never cheering when a particularly good patch is done, and generally evincing neither astonishment, appreciation, nor boredom. Surely they must be sadly neglecting their important duties. And how do they support themselves and their families now that the state dole has been knocked on the head? Punch recently suggested that the government should organize lectures for these street gazers. It is really a good idea.

Zepplin Money.
A recent public inquiry has made the world familiar with the cynical phrase "a parliamentary answer." It is just about the same thing as "a terminological inexactitude." And there is not

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the smallest doubt that the practice is growing. Brigadier Croft recently asked a question about civil servants who were paid Zepplin money—i. e., extra remuneration for air-raid risks while on duty in Whitehall. The answer given was doubtless accurate, but, as my information goes, distinctly misleading all the same. I am told that it is a fact that certain clerks were paid a guinea regardless of raids, and that this payment went on long after the armistice. Moreover, some, if not all, of these gentlemen were quite eligible for army service the pay for which, with somewhat greater risks, was hardly on the same scale.

Sir J. M. Meets B. L.
A very charming little social courtesy marked the conclusion of the parliamentary session, when the Asquithian Liberals entertained as guest at their weekly luncheon Bonar Law, the leader of the House of Commons, and, as Unionist leader, virtually the unwarmed king of the coalition ministry. The suggestion originated, I hear, with Sir Donald Maclean, the leader of the official opposition, and was enthusiastically taken up by his little band of Wee Wees, all of whom deeply appreciate the unvarying courtesy and consideration Bonar Law has shown them during the trying session, and his admirable good temper and disarming frankness. The only other guest was another interesting Scot, Sir J. M. Barrie, who, of course, brought Peter Pan with him.

Jeering at Fate.
The giddy crowds of West End frivolous made every merry over the end of the world. Everybody seemed to be talking and laughing about it. And the pre-dinner evening paper bill was "Unsettled weather tomorrow—official." When the thick London fog suddenly settled down on some suburbs about dusk, and went drifting over London at random all night, some superstitious souls really began to look a little blue. But if last Wednesday is any criterion of what will eventually happen, when some day or other the world does

crumple up, the final cataclysm will find humanity making merry as heedlessly as the Poncepkins of old.
But, though people scoffed openly, some had private doubts apparently. I know of one highly-intelligent lady who dreamt that she was on the Embankment, looking on at the last crash of doom. The houses went up in the air like marionettes, and then crashed utterly.

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terly. The bridges across the river slowly melted away. And it was the crashing of the Hotel Cecil, which lifted like a balloon and then thundered into a miniature Ypres on the ground, that woke her up. This means nerves, for sure, and a certain amount of cogitation. These American professors must be more careful!

Deer Club.
All the London clubs seem to be putting up their entrance fees and subscriptions under pressure of increased prices all round. The Constitutional, whose members have just vacated their warm premises in the Hotel Cecil and are once more at home in Northumberland avenue, is now charging twenty guineas entrance fee and the subscription of five guineas has been doubled. The Junior Carlton is making the subscription twelve guineas, and most of the others, including the Conservative, the Devonshire, St. Stephen's, and the Union, are charging fifteen guineas. The United Services is the same as the Junior Carlton. There is a big influx of new members in most of the well-known clubs, however, and clubland is promising to be very popular and active again now things are slowly settling down.

Classical Dancing.
The popularity of the jazz band as an accompaniment of the modern dance seems at last to be on the wane, and at several of the more exclusive clubs string bands are gradually being reinstated, at any rate for the waltz and the tango. The latest innovation, however, is dancing to classical music, and for some time at private dances one or two "extras" at the end of the programme have been danced to music that, while possessing perfect rhythm, bears no relation to the conventional dance music of the clubs. At one of the big flats in the West End this week some fifteen enthusiastic couples danced, exclusively to classical music, which included the works of Rachmaninoff, Beethoven, Bach and the more modern Russian, Stravinsky. It is probable that this growing fashion, like the "art" shades of which the furniture

shops are full, is a reflection of the influence of the Russian ballet season.

Highway Robbery Boom.
London is unwillingly harboring just now a large number of daring and expert thieves. Their depredations are continually taking new forms, and they are perpetrated in the busiest thoroughfares. The high cost of rugs tempts thieves to extraordinary audacity in annexing them. To leave a sable tie on a restaurant chair or in a motor car for a (Continued on page 19, second column.)

Girls! Women!
Do Your Looks Satisfy You?

Is your color fresh and rosy? Does the glow of health shine out in your cheeks? Do your eyes glisten with health, or are they dull, dark circled and tired? Alas—your bloodless face indicates trouble. Your watery blood menaces your health. What you need is the toning, cleansing assistance of Dr. Hamilton's Pills. They will clean out the surplus of bile that makes your skin so murky—they will put new life into the stomach, brace up digestion and make you eat sufficient food to get a blood supply ahead.
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- Outlook Windshield Cleaner.
- Clear Vision Windshield Cleaner (cloth).
- Auto Goggles.
- Puncture Plugs.
- Self-Cementing Patches.
- Excelsior Auto Tire Cement.
- Air-tight Auto Patches.
- Carborundum Valve Grinding Paste.
- Ford Valve Spring Lifters.
- Bird Quick Seating Piston Rings.
- Sanitax Auto Brushes.
- Excelsior Auto Soap.
- Radiator Neverleak, Carbonvoid.
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