

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 16, 1913.

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LIBERAL PROSPECTS

Since Premier Borden has no intention of keeping his pledge to go to the country on the naval question, there is little likelihood of the general elections being held this year or next. The Conservatives will hold on to office as long as possible. When the struggle comes the naval issue will not be the most important before the electors of this country. The Conservatives would like to have another "flag election" in the provinces outside of Quebec, as they had in 1911, and their agents are doing all in their power to keep alive the prejudice which they hope will again make votes for them, when the next appeal is made. The Liberal party, however, will be in a position to make Mr. Borden and his friends declare themselves upon many questions other than that of naval defence.

The Liberal party in Canada stands for the same broad principles as the leaders of the great Liberal party in the mother country, and the leaders of the present Democratic party in the United States. They stand for the interests of the people, and not for the interests of the trusts and combines. The country will look in vain to the Conservative party for relief from tariff burdens, and for the promotion of legislation to improve the industrial and social condition of the people. The Conservatives have always been the champions of privilege, and Mr. Borden and his friends are no exception to the rule.

Mr. Oscar Straus, who has been studying social welfare legislation in England, says that Britain leads America in social reform movements, and he declares that the English Liberals are twenty-five years ahead of the so-called Progressives in the United States. And yet the whole tendency of legislation in the United States is toward the amelioration of the condition of the average citizen. This is especially true since the Democratic party under Mr. Wilson's leadership gained the ascendancy in both houses of congress.

The principles for which the advanced Liberals stand in England—and the Wilson Democrats in the United States, the Liberal party must stand for in Canada. The Conservatives would be only too happy if the Liberals failed to develop any other than a negative policy. They would be delighted to go on exploiting the services and the resources of the country for their own benefit and the benefit of their friends, while they boasted of their superior loyalty and high aims.

At the next federal elections are held Mr. Borden takes the advice of the Montreal Star concerning the navy, and adapts for himself and his party a permanent policy of contribution, then it would certainly be the duty of the Liberal party to fight again as they have so often and so successfully fought in the past the battle of Canadian autonomy. But the situation may be so changed in the next two years that will not be deemed expedient to fight against the principle of a Canadian navy, built and manned by Canadians. In any case, however, there will be excellent fighting ground in the tariff and the British preference, and in measures for a reduction in the cost of living, and the improvement of the economic and social condition of the people of this country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is pursuing the right course in moving about among the people, stimulating their interest in the political questions of the day. He and his lieutenants are in a position to choose the fighting ground in the next federal campaign, and they may be relied on to be true to the principles of that Liberalism which has done so much for the welfare of this Dominion, and which is winning new victories in the mother country and in the United States, the two countries with which Canada has much to do, and which provide her with so many examples of progressive movements for the welfare of the common people.

The prospects of the Liberal party in Canada are bright because of the peculiar combination of "imperialists" and "Nationalists" to which they are opposed, but chiefly because reform is in the air, and the people throughout the country are giving very serious thought to conditions which impose too heavy burdens upon the masses. The Conservative party hope to retain power by upholding privilege and appealing to racial and religious prejudice, an appeal which certainly proved very effective in 1911; but the very people who were thus induced to vote the Tory ticket have had ample opportunity to discover that they were humbugged, and that nothing whatever has been done by the Conservatives to change the conditions concerning which their agents so diligently whispered in the ears of any who might be unwisely enough to listen to the shameful appeal. So far as the Liberals are concerned, they should prefer to remain in opposition rather than gain power by such tactics as were resorted to by the Conservatives in 1911. Fortunately they have as their leader a man who makes the same appeal in Ontario as in Quebec, and whose record as an imperialist puts to shame that of the men who in 1909 proclaimed one naval policy,

and in 1912 executed a complete somersault at the behest of men who had openly boasted during the election campaign that their ancestors had shot holes in the British flag. Sir Wilfrid Laurier may fitly stand in the struggle between the two parties, whether it comes next year or in 1915, as the leader of a party which has one policy for all parts of Canada, and has behind it a splendid record of achievement. Not what it has accomplished, however, but what it will undertake to accomplish when it has once more been entrusted by the people with the reins of power, will commend it to the electors from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

It is not too soon to begin to formulate such a general policy as will command the enthusiastic devotion of Liberals, and who also the support of great numbers of people who were never more keenly disappointed than they have been since they voted for the candidates of Mr. R. L. Borden.

It is good news that the south side of King square is to be paved, thus completing the circuit of the square with pavement of a permanent character.

There appears to be considerable doubt as to the source of the typhoid fever cases of which there too many in the city at the present time. It should be possible to trace them to a source and have the danger removed.

The July bulletin from Ottawa reports crop conditions good all over Canada, and the weather in August has been favorable to the farmers. The country has still the promise of good crops, which will bring relief to the financial situation.

A gentleman who has returned from a visit to western cities says that the real estate situation there is not nearly as healthy as it is in the city of St. John. The like is true of business generally. Conditions are much more satisfactory in the maritime provinces than in the west.

The British parliament has been prorogued and will probably not sit again until next February. The Liberal government has come through the session with added strength, and the Conservatives under the leadership of Mr. Borden have failed to make any impression upon the country.

King George is too wise a monarch and too thoroughly imbued with the principles of constitutional government to pay any attention to the mischievous proposal of two peers that he should intervene in the matter of Irish home rule. It is very evident that the Tories in the mother country are prepared to go to any length to embarrass the Asquith government. But they always blunder and fail.

Those who in the state of Kansas have been asking the governor of the state to proclaim a day for public prayers for rain must be acting on the assumption that God has not been aware of the conditions in Kansas of late, and that, upon being apprised of the state of affairs, He will grant relief. Such a conception of the Author of the Universe hardly seems adequate. If the cry of the suffering has not been heard and heeded, why should any ostentatious public appeal have more effect?

Mrs. Frank J. Heinicke, of Pittsburgh, Pa., received on Friday a letter mailed to her twenty-five years ago by her sister. It had been placed in a cabinet, the key to which had been lost, and which consequently was not opened until last week. The letter contained an invitation to go shopping.

Much curiosity was aroused at Salem Willows by the sight of a woman sitting in the sand and sifting it through a large sieve. It was found that she had lost a ring the day before and was trying to find it. After several hours' work the ring was recovered.

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BIRTHDAYS OF NOTABILITIES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Sir Joseph Pope, under secretary of state for external affairs, Ottawa, is fifty-nine years of age today. He was born in Charlottetown, P. E. I., and was for some years private secretary to Sir John A. Macdonald. He has been connected with many important missions and was knighted for his services in 1912.

The Hon. T. O. Davis, Prince Albert, Sask., dominion senator, was born at Sherrington, P. G., on August 16, 1856. He has been a commercial life in western Canada for several years and was for a long time member of parliament.

E. M. Macdonald, M. P. for Pictou, N. S., was born in Pictou on August 16, 1865. He practices law in his native town and is one of the leaders of the bar in Nova Scotia. In parliament he occupies a prominent place on the Liberal side.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Robert Bickerdike, M. P. for the St. Lawrence Division of Montreal, and prominent in the live stock and shipping interests of the Canadian metropolis, reaches his seventieth birthday today.

Peter Henderson Bryce, head of the medical department. Department of the Interior, Ottawa, and one of Canada's most eminent medical men, is sixty years of age today. He was for many years connected with the provincial board of health of Ontario.

LIGHTER VEIN

EUGENICALLY ALL RIGHT
Doctor—"Why did you refuse him?"
Daughter—"There was nothing in him to admire."

Doctor—"What nonsense—his lungs, heart and liver were as sound as an albatross's."

"What's the matter with the train?" asked the lecturer, vexed with the speed they were making.

"If you don't like this train," the guard retorted, "you can get out and walk."

"By Jove!" said the lecturer, "I'd like to do it; but a reception committee is to meet me at my destination, and I don't want to get in ahead of time."

The red touring car struck a pedestrian, rolling him in the mud and maltreating him in general. The owner ran back, greatly excited, after stopping his car.

"Is he dead?" he asked anxiously of the medical man who was attending the victim.

"O, no," replied the doctor, cheerfully. "He's not dead; he's merely run down."

The judge of a Texas county was also cashier of the town bank. One day a stranger presented a check for payment and his evidence of identification was not satisfactory.

"Why, judge," said the man, "I've known you to sentence men to prison for life on no better evidence than this."

"That may be true," replied the judge. "But when it comes to handing out cold cash we have to be mighty careful."

Doctor—From now you may let your husband have a glass of beer every day. You understand?

Wife—Yes, doctor—Just one glass a day.

Doctor (a week later)—Now, I hope you have kept strictly to that one glass per day that I allowed your husband to take?

Wife—Most decidedly, doctor—only he is four weeks in advance with his waxes.

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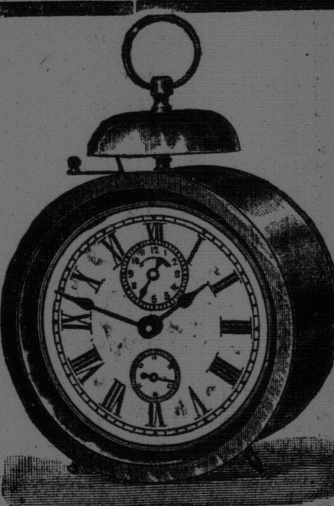
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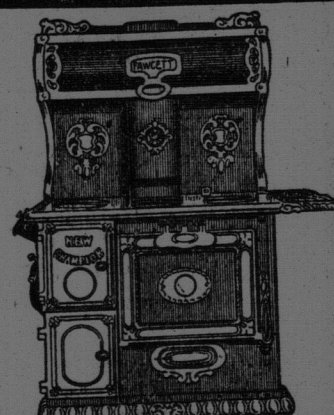
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LITTLE DANGER OF FOREST FIRES NOW IN NORTHERN MAINE

Report From Chief Fire Warden

—The Spruce Bud Worm Decreasing

(Bangor Commercial)

Hosea B. Buck of this city, chief fire warden for the St. John and Arnsbrook river waters, has returned after a trip through that territory. Conditions as far as the danger from forest fires are concerned, are excellent in that district, he says, and the number of forest patrolmen in the section has accordingly been decreased.

According to Mr. Buck, the spruce bud worm, which has done considerable damage

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are in other sections of the state, seems to be decreasing in northern Maine.

"I found that along the St. John river the trees have not so numerous as they were last year," said Mr. Buck, "although they have attacked the trees there. They were at their height about four weeks ago, and killed most of the spruce on the new growth of this year. They only attack the tips, but after they have done their work it looks as though the trees had been singed by fire. The spruce turn brown and drop off."

"It is encouraging to note in this section that since the spruce have dropped off new growth has appeared and are now about half grown. This indicates that the stem is not killed, and the growth of the tree is only retarded."

The fact that the spruce bud worms

are apparently growing scarcer indicates that the government experts, who predicted that the cold weather of the northern part of Maine or parasites would do away with them in a comparatively short time, are probably right. The lumbermen and timberland owners in that section are encouraged over the decrease of the pest.

Some of the lumbermen on the Maine side of the St. John river have already commenced their early operations among them being Charles E. Jones of St. Francis, who operates on the Little Black and St. Francis waters; Robert J. Potts of Fredericton who lumbers for the St. John Lumber Co., and Albert M. Currier of Seven Islands.

The indications are that the cut will be a little larger than the usual this year

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SOUTH SIDE OF THE KING SQUARE TO BE PA

That the south side of King Square will be paved this year and the circuit thus completed has now become a certainty, for the signature of the Mayor, the last of the property owners of that side of the square, was yesterday to the petition for the paving of the street, and this petition has reached the commissioner of public works. The signature of the Mayor, Gerow for the Robertson estate was pending on Wednesday.