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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17.

THE PEERS VERSUS THE PEOPLE.

The House of Lords has fired the opening gun in the greatest constitutional conflict Great Britain has known since the seventeenth century.

Lord Lansdowne's amendment to shelve the budget will be supported by an overwhelming majority of the peers. The Government can count on no more than 40 supporters in any contingency. The upper chamber is, as it always has been, the creature of the land and liquor interests, and these are the pillars of the Unionist party.

The challenge will, of course, be promptly accepted by the ministry. Parliament will be dissolved as soon as possible, and the general election will be held in January. The dominating issue will not be the budget, but the veto of the House of Lords. A victory for the Government would forever establish the sovereignty of the House of Commons. The Liberal party would not and could not take office again without the assurance that the upper house would be deprived of the power to flout the Government and force a dissolution at pleasure.

Not since 1859 has the House of Lords ventured to touch a financial measure. In that year it rejected the bill for the repeal of the paper duty. The House of Commons instantly responded by passing three resolutions affirming the supreme control of the House of Commons in finance. The paper duty was embodied with all the financial proposals of the year in a single bill, which the Lords could only accept or reject as a whole. The upper chamber then surrendered, and confirmed a precedent which it has now violated. As the British constitution is an accumulation of precedents, the peers have taken an unconstitutional course, but under the British system there can be no reference of this question to a legal tribunal. It must be fought out at the polls.

The action of the peers throws the national finances into confusion. The collection of new taxes began on the morning following the introduction of the budget. Millions of pounds of extra taxation have been paid into the public treasury. What would happen if a person now refused to pay the extra duties on whiskey or tobacco, and brought an action against the customs authorities for not delivering him his purchases at the old prices? No one has given an authoritative answer to the question. Either after the finance bill is rejected by the Lords or at the end of the session the new customs and excise duties on spirits and petrol and tobacco, the new license duties on public houses and motor-cars, the changes in the income tax both in the way of additions and abatements, and the new scale of death duties all cease to be legally collectable. How will the situation be met? How will money be found to make up the deficiency of revenue between the end of the session and the adoption of a new budget, supposing the Government is defeated? Or in the interval before the present budget can be re-adopted, supposing the Government is returned to office? The national credit and the money market will be hard hit. Trade and industry will be given a temporary setback. There will be something like chaos in the national treasury.

The Lords have plunged the country into these difficulties from sheer selfishness. That they will be soundly punished should be the wish of every believer in democracy.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRISIS.

The Deakin ministry, whose downfall was announced a few days ago, is the fifth Australian Government to suffer defeat since the formation of the Commonwealth eight years ago. Like its predecessor, at the head of which was Mr. Fisher, leader of the Labor party, Mr. Deakin's cabinet was a coalition. Six months ago, Mr. Deakin and his party succeeded in voting the Fisher ministry out of office. The Deakinites emerged from the ensuing general election with a precarious majority. Mr. Fisher now has his revenge.

The question on which Deakin's followers split is the amount the Commonwealth shall pay to each of the various states, in consideration of the latter giving up their power of customs taxation. At the formation of the Commonwealth, the sum agreed upon was \$3 75 per head of the population. This amount proved insufficient to carry on the government of the states, and at a conference in August last between Premier Deakin and the premiers of the states, an agreement was reached by which the apportionment was to be increased to \$5 per

head. In consenting to these terms, Premier Deakin appears to have neglected the wise precaution of consulting his colleagues. At once objections were raised in the cabinet. Some declared that the increase made in the grant was too high; others opposed the settlement agreed upon by the premiers because it did not include a solution of the states' debts problem. Subsequently a caucus of Mr. Deakin's supporters was held, at which the premier proposed that the Commonwealth assume the states' debts, at the same time urging that nothing be said for the present about federal control of states' borrowings, and suggesting that when the states' debts became a Commonwealth responsibility the latter borrow almost immediately for the conversion of them, his expectation being that when the Commonwealth had appeared as a borrower on the London market the states would find it useless to go there.

The fight over the proposal to make the increased contribution permanent, by embodying it in the constitution, was a prolonged and bitter one, resulting in the rejection of the premier's proposal by the Commonwealth Parliament, and the resignation of the ministry.

The final ending of the crisis is difficult to foretell. Not one of the three political parties appears able to agree on a policy that would be likely to effect a settlement of the vexed financial question. The creation of new political parties is not improbable.

CANADA'S GIANT MERGER.

The coal and steel merger is the biggest thing of the kind that has happened in Canada. The Dominion Iron and Steel Company had a capitalization of \$34,368,833; the Dominion Coal Company of \$23,000,000. The new company will have a capitalization of \$57,000,000. It will be by far the greatest industrial concern in the country. It almost reaches the proportions of a United States trust.

The merger will put an end to a long-standing feud which has been costly to both parties. The coal mines and iron deposits are almost contiguous, and economies in the production of steel ought to be effected by a single administration. Will the public share in the advantages of the new arrangement? The people of Canada have paid out millions to establish an iron and steel industry. The Dominion Iron and Steel Company alone drew \$1,067,528 in bounties last year. It has been subsidized also by a range of comparatively high duties. The taxpayers have, therefore, a right to demand that the power of the big corporation shall not be abused. They must not be mulcted in future to pay dividends upon watered capital. The steel bounties have served their purpose, and ought not to be renewed when they expire a few years hence. The industry throughout the country is now firmly established. It has passed the stage of infancy and it can thrive on a reduced allowance of public "papa." The concentration of the interests of Dominion Coal and Dominion Steel is justified by special circumstances, but it is to be hoped the merging process will not be carried further. The Canadian people want no reproduction of the conditions across the line, where the steel industry is practically under a single control. They will watch jealously the new development and they will expect Parliament to protect them.

Canada's \$70,000,000 merger is a sign of growth, but—

The general election will give the British suffragettes the time of their lives.

Mr. Doyle, of North Middlesex, is not needed at Toronto. If the Government is suffering, it is because of a swollen majority.

A number of church and other organizations show a tendency to interest themselves in the municipal elections. It is a good sign. Civic affairs have suffered from too little, not too much, public interest.

Gladstone wished to challenge the peers' right of veto fifteen years ago but was overruled by his own cabinet. His prediction that the Liberal party would have to face the issue has been soon verified.

A statue of John Sandfield Macdonald was unveiled yesterday at Toronto. He was upright and conscientious, but a Canadian public man who held aloof from the Confederation struggle was not made of the stuff that Canada needed in those crucial days.

Is it not possible to have a decent, fair and square campaign in North Middlesex? Or will the fact that Mr. Mitchell is a grain dealer and not a grain-grower be made the excuse for petty class and sectional cries. If so, farmers of North Middlesex should show the same broad-mindedness as those of West Middlesex.

TRY, TRY, AGAIN.
[Washington Star.]
"Were you successful the first time you ran for office?"
"No," answered Senator Sorghum. "My experience was not an unusual one. I had to keep on trying until the opposition put up a candidate who was even more unpopular than I was."

FACTS ABOUT ONTARIO.

[Canadian Courier.]
New York States, the State of Maine, the State of New Hampshire, State of Vermont, the State of Pennsylvania, the State of Ohio—these six great states of the Union do not equal in their combined aggregate of territory Ontario, Canada's premier province. Such is the information imported in the statement issued by Mr. C. C. James, a sketch of whom recently appeared in the People and Places department of this magazine. Ontario, 1,000 miles by 750 miles, has a land area of 220,000 square miles, or 140,800,000 acres. Mr. James' interesting statistics illustrate that of this heritage 4,500,000 acres are settled; 14,000,000 acres are cleared; 6,500,000 acres are woodland, and 5,000,000 acres are swamp, marsh or slashland. What

has become to be called Old Ontario constitutes all but 15,000,000 acres of the total settled area. And the end of Ontario's territory extension is not yet. These figures take not into consideration the 16,000,000 acres of clay being opened up by the National Transcontinental Railway.

EDWARD BLAKE.
[Woodstock Sentinel-Review.]
He was built on heroic rather than on servicable lines. He knew how to stand and to persevere, rather than to bend and to accommodate himself to varying conditions. He was a giant, not a political acrobat. He was always true to his nature, and the service for which nature designed him he performed with sincerity and ability. The more his fellow-countrymen learn to appreciate true worth as distinguished from mere good-fellowship, the higher will Edward Blake rank in their estimation.

THE POSE.
[Washington Herald.]
All mankind has a pose—
'Tis a beautiful game,
And wherever one goes
He will find it the same.

Little trouble, I'm sure,
To tell which is which:
For the rich all talk poor
And the poor all talk rich.

HE WAS AN EXPERT.

[Concrete Record.]
The householder smothered his wrath and descended to the basement.
"Are you the plumber?" he asked of the grimy-looking individual who was tinkering with the pipes in the cellar.
"Yes, guv'nor," answered the man.
"Been long in the trade?"
"Bout a year, guv'nor."
"Pier make mistakes?"
"Bless yer, no, guv'nor."
"Oh, then, I suppose it's all right. I imagined you had connected up the wrong pipes, for the chandelier in the drawing-room is spraying like a fountain, and the bathroom taps on fire."

MR. BORDEN'S PRECIPITATION.

[Montreal Herald.]
And yet it must appear to be hopelessly difficult to reconcile the factions which had taken up their positions before the session opened, and to unite upon a single line of action. Mr. Borden, who might have been able to do something if he were in a situation to mediate between opposing groups, is isolated first by having made a declaration in advance, and still more by having had his declarations repudiated. If he were to bow before the recalcitrants and allow the leadership to be transferred to other hands, the actual presentation of the Government's proposals might show a way for those who now fiercely contend for their several plans to agree upon some method of treating the definite proposals.

DEAD TIMBER.

[Brantford Expositor.]
The Toronto News says the Conservative Parliamentary party is carrying too much dead timber. This is unkind, unless it designates the "punk," and this affords an opportunity to have it cut out.

WOMANISH.

[New York Times.]
The average woman is not satisfied to do as she pleases, and she can make other people do as she pleases.

NATIONAL PROGRESS.

[Ottawa Free Press.]
Every one of the departmental reports contains a remarkable record of national progress during the year. It is a good sign in a country such as Canada when progress of the nation means the prosperity of the individual.

BORDEN AND MONK.

[St. John Telegraph.]
Mr. Monk seems not to realize that the British Empire is more than a name. If that be his state of mind he will command no great following. What Mr. Borden is going to do with his Quebec heart part is a question. He can scarcely avoid humiliating the Monk conception of Canada and the Empire.

INCONSISTENT IMPERIALISTS.

[Whitby Free Press.]
The Montreal Gazette thinks that the money which the Canadian people devote to the maintenance of the militia might be "more profitably used for other purposes or else allotted to the taxpayers." Which is entirely logical from the point of view of the gentlemen on whose tongues the phrase "tip-top navy" is so frequent, and who, with an assumption of imperial superiority, want to have this country contribute to the British exchequer for the British Admiralty to expend. Why not also do away with the militia, and send the money it now costs over to the War Office?

SOCIETY ITEM.

[Toronto News.]
Lady de Blyenck Walford-Wallis has invented a convenient and exclusive skirt pocket for holding toilet articles. Yesterday, while driving in Hyde Park, she mailed a cabinet minister full back of the car, and was not even suspected. Society is all agog over the device.

LAURIER AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

[Ottawa Citizen.]
Rev. T. Crawford Brown, M.A., of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, preached at both services in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church yesterday. At both services there were very large congregations, and especially in the evening, in spite of the rather unfavorable weather conditions. Rev. Mr. Brown and Mrs. Brown are the guests with in Ottawa of Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier, and the Prime Minister was present at the evening service at St. Andrew's.

SAFETY IN FREE SPEECH.

[Toronto Star.]
There can be no treason in free speech in a country like this. If one man will speak and another will listen, they have the right to hire a hall and meet there. They have the undoubted right to adopt resolutions and send them to the Prime Minister, and it is for him to determine to what extent these resolutions shall influence him.
There is, indeed, more treason in silence than in speech nowadays. Men who, to curry favor, suppress their opinions, are more false to their citizenship than a man can be who honestly speaks his mind in the open air.
The man who openly airs opinions that grow hot within him thereby proves himself a patriot. He improves his own health by delivering himself. He shows that he knows he is in a free country, where he can speak his mind, and he shows that he is not without hope that he can persuade his fellows to think as he does.

PATERSON'S COUGH DROPS

Quickest and most pleasant way to rid yourself of a cough; surest way to keep your throat in good condition and your voice clear; delicious to taste, too. Five cents for a red-and-yellow box full. Doctors approve of it. *The Candy Cure* Made by Paterson of Brantford

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This clearance of high-grade goods comes at an opportune time. If you need a new suit, separate skirt or coat, or a one-piece dress, come Thursday. They are novelty suitings, tweeds, broadcloths, serges, cleviots, fine silk and wool jacquards, and imported French suitings. Prices are 75c to \$2.00 a yard. Tomorrow -- -- 49c SEE WINDOW DISPLAY.

NEW PONY COATS, SWEATER COATS and COAT SWEATERS. We Have Them Again Now

These garments have been very hard to procure, but yesterday we bought another large assortment and are again in a position to show the largest and best selected range of these most stylish coats. We have them in all sizes, all colors, and the prices show economy.

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AMUSEMENTS



SIG. TORRE, Tenor, MME. ANNA FRERY, Soprano, SIG. ALESSANDRONI, Baritone.

With the National Grand Opera Company at the Grand Friday and Saturday Night and Saturday Matinee.

"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." The advance sale for the engagement of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Grand next Tuesday, will open Saturday morning at 9. This classic American comedy holds a strong position in the favor of theatre-goers, and appeals so strongly to the average audience that everything goes with a whirl of merriment and applause.

NORTH END BOYS GIVEN A LECTURE

One of Them Sent in a False Alarm to the City Firemen.

Five North End youths appeared in the juvenile court before Magistrate Love this morning, charged by Fire Chief Aldrich with breaking the glass in a fire alarm box and with sending in a false alarm.

One of the lads admitted that he had sent in the alarm, but denied that he had broken the glass.

It was broken, he said, when he went to it, and although the other boys had told him to come away and leave the box alone, he opened it, not knowing that he would send in any call to the station.

The other lads all admitted being there, but said they had not in any way touched the box, and had all told the other lad not to meddle with it.

Given a Lecture. Magistrate Love gave the lad who pleaded guilty a very severe lecture, in which he pointed out the danger of leaving the heart of the city unprotected while the brigade is away, to say nothing of the wear and tear upon the apparatus and the danger of accidents resulting. To the youths who were there, the court stated that it was their duty to have staid at the box when they saw it was open, and tell the firemen when they arrived who had sent in the alarm. Had they done so, the court said, they would have taken the only proper and manly course.

active as it seemed," said Mr. Ross. "There still remains an unexpressed declaration of the Whittier Government for its action in gerrymandering the riding. They have once declared against such action, and they will do it again. John Mitchell is well known for his fair dealing, and straightforward conduct in every part of this riding, and there is no doubt that on the evening of Dec. 6 he will be your representative."

Mr. Ross dealt very briefly with his record in the Legislature, and declared that he had kept all the promises that he had made.

Mr. H. J. Pettipiece, of Forest, ex-M. P. for East Lambton, followed. He wanted to again congratulate the electors of North Middlesex upon their magnificent fight in June, 1908, one of the most notable victories in the history of the province. There was need that the Opposition in the Local House be strengthened. Although few in numbers they were strong in debating quality, and it was the duty of North Middlesex to add another to the number of fighters on the Liberal side. The Ontario Government had done as well as it should have by the people of the province. The abolition of the model schools was a blow aimed directly at the farmer. They had also shown themselves excessively friendly to the combines, calling off Mr. J. W. Curry, K.C., when that man's prosecution bore fair to result in the conviction of the accused.

He held a high compliment to Mr. John Mitchell, the Liberal nominee. "He has dealt with farmers all his life, and they know the man," said Mr. Pettipiece. "There is no man better known than he, and there is no doubt of his election." He hoped at some future time to be

Three Grand Operas. That Londoners intend to patronize the National Grand Opera Company was amply demonstrated yesterday by the advance sale receipts for the three performances. The demand for seats was distributed over the three operas, and from all appearances the company will have big audiences. "Aida" has been selected for Friday night, "Lucia" for Saturday matinee, and "Carmen" for Saturday night. The first two rows of seats in the lower floor will be taken out to make room for the orchestra of 50.

EVANS' ANTISEPTIC THROAT PASTILLES

IMMEDIATELY RELIEVES Coughs, Colds, etc.

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Everyone Thought She Was Going Into Consumption.

Gained Ten Pounds in Two Weeks by the Use of Burdock Blood Bitters.

Mrs. Fred Biggs, Kingston, Ont., writes: "I was completely run down, my blood was out of order, and I used to get so weak I would be compelled to stay in bed for weeks at a time. I could not eat, was pale and thin; every one thought I was going into consumption. I tried everything and different doctors until a friend advised me to use Burdock Blood Bitters. I did not have one bottle used when my appetite began to improve. I used six bottles. I gained ten pounds in two weeks. When I began to take it I was weighed at ninety-three pounds. It just seemed to pull me from the grave as I never expected to be strong again. I will tell every sufferer of your wonderful medicine."

The blood reaches every portion of the body to distribute nutriment and remove effete matter and waste products. Clearly, then, any influence, good or bad, affecting the blood, must necessarily affect the entire system for good or evil as the case may be.

Get pure blood and keep it pure by removing every trace of impure morbid matter from the system by using Burdock Blood Bitters. It exerts a curative influence unapproached by any other remedy.

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