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H. V. MACKINNON, Managing Editor. ALFRED E. MCGINLEY, Editor.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1916.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H.M.T. The King.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

THE BRITISH CABINET.

The personnel of the Lloyd George ministry, announced this morning, will serve to create the impression that the British premier has discarded not only party lines but past performances in his search for the keenest and most aggressive men in the kingdom to accept positions under the crown. It was intimated in Friday night's despatches that the new ministry would contain men not hitherto in the public mind as statesmen of quality. This forecast has been justified by the choice for several of the offices.

The presence of Lord Milner as a member of the war cabinet will bring to the council board of the nation a man who has been regarded as the personification of ruthlessness. It is the opinion of qualified English reviewers that if he were permitted to frame the war policy of Great Britain the campaign would take on a new and, for the Germans, a terrible phase. Lord Milner's record has been one of achievement irrespective of the means used to bring it about. At the war council he will undoubtedly stand for a policy of the most vigorous and unrelenting nature and there will be many to believe that at the present stage such a course can be justified.

Another feature of the new ministry is the inclusion of Sir Edward Carson as Secretary of the Admiralty. This is another indication of how far the premier has thrown tradition and political affiliations in the discard in picking his men. A little more than two years ago half of the people of the British nation pictured Carson as a traitor for whom death was too mild a punishment, while the other half hailed him as a demi-god. That he has been deemed worthy of selection for an office which has to do with the most effective arm of Britain's defense illustrates that at least half the people erred in their judgment; whether he will measure up to the high standard of quality set for him by the other half remains to be seen. That he will be aggressive even his enemies cannot doubt.

There will be general regret over the passing of Viscount Grey although he has been criticised as leaning too much to the quality of gentleness in his relations with the world. His successor is a man of rare ability and much energy.

As for the premier himself he has already shown by his marvellous work in the mobilization of the munition manufacturers of the United Kingdom that he possesses dynamic energy and wonderful executive powers. He takes office pledged to more vigorous prosecution of the war and if the platform announced for him by Lord Northcliffe's organ at all measures up to what he has in mind it may be expected that the people of Britain will realize more clearly than ever the nature of the campaign in which they are engaged and the sacrifices necessary to bring it to a successful issue.

Altogether the new British cabinet will appeal as strong where strength is needed. Any war policy it may undertake as tending to advance the interests of the Empire and of the world will have the united approval of the British people.

It may be of interest to recall that Britain has been the last of all the nations engaged in war to witness a change of ministry since the situation became serious, for the coalition government of Mr. Asquith assumed office when the campaign was in its early stages. Premier Lloyd George has the greatest opportunity ever afforded to a public man to make for himself an imperishable place in the history of the world. There is every confidence that he will handle it well.

SIR WILFRID TO RETIRE?

The report that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to retire from the leadership of the Liberal party is once more in circulation, this time bearing more than a little evidence of truth, for it is said that the majority of the members of the Liberal Advisory Board have agreed that the wearer of the white plume is no longer the Moses he was once thought to be, and that under another they might have a better chance of emerging from the wilderness of opposition into the promised land of power and position.

It is interesting to learn that the gentleman, reported as most highly

favoured for Sir Wilfrid's position is Hon. George H. Murray, premier of Nova Scotia. Mr. Murray is not a man of outstanding ability which illustrates that the Liberals must have been hard put to it for a candidate for the office. The Nova Scotia government is probably the least progressive in the Dominion but Mr. Murray's inability is probably the worst fault that can be charged up against him. Personally he is popular, as Hon. C. W. Robinson was popular in New Brunswick, but as a leader of the federal Liberal party he would probably find himself at the mercy of his stronger colleagues. Also as Mr. Robinson did in New Brunswick.

The mere suggestion of any search for a leader to replace Sir Wilfrid is, however, decidedly interesting, as it indicates that the Liberals realize that the "Old Cock," as he once boastfully termed himself, has lost his power. His course in regard to the Premier's request to join in an appeal for recruits, when he refused to have anything to do with the proposal, has weakened him greatly with his own party and his belated effort to address recruiting meetings in Quebec will not serve to counteract the force of the impression created by his earlier refusal to perform a valuable national service. Those Liberal journals which used the retirement of Sir Sam Hughes as an indication of the disruption of the Conservative Government now have an opportunity to preach some fine editorial sermons on the beautiful quality of the harmony in the Liberal ranks.

CANADIAN TRADE FIGURES.

The figures of Canadian trade brought down for the annual period ending September 30 are especially interesting because the period chronicles with the outbreak and duration of the war. During the second year of war our trade was doubled. It is now \$1,738,174,356, having increased over \$800,000,000 for the twelve months. Both imports and exports have increased, but exports in vastly greater volume than imports.

It is necessary to walk very softly in drawing light or guidance from the figures, says the Winnipeg Telegram. So many ideas have been upset by the war that there is no room now for the man who says with certainty that such and such figures mean so and so. He never did know, but now he knows that he does not know, which is quite a different thing, and much more important. With diffidence this may be advanced, however. We have shipped out of the country an enormous number of things which are good to eat, and have shipped in an enormous amount of money—or bills, which are used as money in exchange. Hence there are fewer things to eat in the country, and far more money. Therefore when things to eat are divided by money the result is smaller. Perhaps this is too simple to be a true explanation of the high cost of living.

One other thing looks to be clear in the figures, and more, in the course of the figures. It is that trade is accommodating itself, as to a normal condition, to the decidedly abnormal condition of war. What that portends when the abnormal war condition ceases to exist there is no living brain in the world, civilized or uncivilized, scientific philosophical, economic or practical that has the haziest idea.

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Deaths Last Week.

The Board of Health reports of deaths in the city last week show that they were eleven in number and that the causes were as follows: Senility, three; uraemia, two; paralysis, myocardiitis, heart failure, diabetes mellitus, cerebral softening and periculous anaemia, one each.

FINDS PROSPERITY BELTING THE GLOBE

Detroit Man Back From Round-the-World Trade Tour.

RUSSIA LEADING VAN

Siberia Fairly Choked With American Railway Cars and Goods—All Japan Studying English.

A round-the-world trip made for study of the trade situation in various parts of the world was completed a few days ago when Charles M. Steele of Detroit, an Arrostook man, arrived in New York from England. Mr. Steele sailed from Vancouver on May 19 last, and since that time has been in all parts of Japan, the principal trade centres of China, the Philippines, has crossed Siberia, toured a large part of European Russia, visited Scandinavia, and England. The Teutonic countries, Italy and France, were the only great nations which lay in his path which he failed to tour.

"After a ten days' voyage," said Mr. Steele, "I landed at Yokohama. I remained in Japan one month, and during that time visited all parts of that island empire. And I can assure you that Japan is a great country, and Tokyo is, in my opinion, the most cosmopolitan city in the world. An era of prosperity such as she has never before enjoyed, correctly states the present economic situation in Japan. They are busy everywhere making everything but automobiles. For some reason or other the automobile is not an institution in the country of the Mikado.

"The country is dotted with great munition factories, whose output to a large extent is being sent into Russia as fast as it can be transported across Siberia. For instance, the great Tokio Arsenal is running day and night, and at its utmost capacity, turning out guns and other fighting material for Russia, and in every other factory the story is the same. The automobile is not in common use in Japan. The very rich own machines, but there it stops. There is not a single automobile being manufactured in Japan, and the high tariff in effect makes it impossible for the poor to own them. The fact that because of the heavy duty a Ford sells in Japan for \$1,100 indicates the situation in the automobile industry in that country.

Everybody Studies English.

The Japanese people are the most courteous people in the world, and they are elations for learning. It seemed to me that the whole country had gone wild on the subject of the English language. Everybody, it seemed, is studying English. They are teaching it in all the schools, primary as well as advanced institutions, and an American or an Englishman who goes to Japan finds himself unconsciously turned into a professor of English.

"On one occasion I was standing on a corner in Tokyo, and a Japanese student approached me. He bowed and in fairly good English informed me that the building in front of me was the Imperial Theatre. 'Are you a stranger in Tokyo?' the student asked.

"On replying that I was a pleased smile spread over his face, and offering me his hand, he announced that for the rest of the day he would be my guide.

"For the remainder of the day this young Japanese bustled himself intelligently to indicate and explain to me the wonders of Tokyo, and the reason he did so was because I spoke English and he wanted to get practice talking to me. The same thing happened in other places as well as in Tokyo.

"I also made it my business while in Japan to try and find out in the

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Little Benny's Note Book

THIS WEEK.
The Park Ave. News.
Sports. A go as you please walking contest was started last Saturday, the course being around the block and the object being to see with one good walk around the most times, but it stopped after about 15 minutes on account of a dog catcher's wagon coming along and everybody wanting to follow it.

SHORT STORY.
Look Again.
The end.
"Dinner Minger King," went the telephone.
"Hello," said Mr. Peets.
"Hello, dear," answered Mrs. Peets. "I am pleased to inform you that 2 lovely twins arrived this afternoon."

"Twins? Holy smoke! Are you sure?" said Mr. Peets.
"Till I look again," said Mrs. Peets. "O no, there's only one."

Society Notes. Mr. Sam Cross has returned home after spending Saturday and Sunday at his Ants House on Broad street. Mr. Cross sees his Ant is very lively and has pie for dinner every day.
TOO LATE.
Pome by Sidney Martin.
Grass cut! Grass cut!
O never mind. I remember!
There ain't any grass to cut just now
On account of it being December.

Personal. A certain well known fellow with a black eye was Artie Alexander looked him in getting all the girls crazy about him by telling them he got it playing football. We don't you tell the truth, Puds?

Home made fudge made if you provide the kitchen and the materials, 5 cents a pound. See Lew Davis. Advertisement.

course of my talks with the people if there was any real ground for the stories that the Japanese hate this country. I found no trace of any such hatred. There are, to be sure, some 'yellow' journals in Japan which 'lingo' at our expense; but, as a Japanese merchant remarked, 'America also has its 'yellow' papers, and they are just as bad as are the Japanese 'yellows' when it comes to telling the truth about Japan and the attitude of the Japanese people toward the United States. And from what I saw and heard and read I think he was right.

"Another thing that struck me was that although Japan is at war with Germany I noted very little hostility on the part of anybody toward that country. As a matter of fact it sometimes struck me that the Japanese really like the Germans.

"Leaving Japan, I went to Manila and I arrived there the morning of July 4. The flags were flying everywhere and it never looked better to me than it did that July morning. Manila is a great city, as a matter of fact two cities, one of them the new American Manila and the other the ancient Oriental town. Unlike Japan, there are plenty of automobiles in Manila and I think the city is on the eve of a great period of prosperity. It is one of the loveliest spots in all the Far East and its loveliness is due to American rule.

"From Manila I went to China and, arriving in that country, I began to take note of the British influence on everything. You see that British influence everywhere in China, and Hong Kong is almost a British city. In Shanghai and in Peking you still see Britain's influence in everything that pertains to business and industry, and if anybody thinks the British are so busy fighting that they are going to lose any great part of their foreign trade that person had better think a second time.

"The Germans in Shanghai and in Hong Kong are all ostracized and today German shops that were once

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