

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1921

PROPOSAL FOR FIXED EASTER

his Year Within Five Days
of Earliest Date

Century Since It Was On
March 22 and Will Not
Happen Until 2285.

London, March 25. — (By Canadian Press.)—The occurrence this year of Easter Sunday on March 27, within five days of its earliest possible date, has lived the proposal for a fixed Easter, fewer than sixteen Easters will happen between now and the close of this century—an average of one every two years—unless something is done to prevent the erratic wandering of the festival between March 22 and April 25. Under the existing ecclesiastical rule Easter Sunday can fall on any of thirty-one days, and it is a natural assumption at each of these dates recurs once in forty-five years, or, roughly, three times in a century. But actually that is not so, owing to the essential conditions at Easter must be a Sunday, and that the ecclesiastical full moon (which is not the same as the real moon) upon which

it depends must occur on one of the seven days immediately preceding it. Thus, to have Easter Sunday on its earliest date, March 22, the ecclesiastical moon must be full on March 21, which date must also be a Saturday; but so rarely are these conditions satisfied in the same year that it is over a century since Easter fell on March 22, and it will not again fall so early until the year 2285.

Of late years the inconvenience of a movable Easter has induced calendar reformers to propose reforms which will either make Easter a fixed festival or greatly restrict its wanderings. Professor Forster suggested that Easter Sunday should be assigned to the third Sunday after the spring equinox, which would give it a range of eight days, between April 5 and April 12, according to the date and day of the week on which the equinox falls.

Other proposals aim at an Easter absolutely fixed to one date. That of course, would necessitate a radical reform of the whole calendar, under which the same weekday should always fall on the same date. A bill to reform the calendar on these lines was introduced into the House of Commons a few years ago, and in this April 14, which would have always been a Sunday, was scheduled as Easter Day. But the bill never got beyond a first reading.

Members of parliament, business people, lawyers, and schoolboys would all welcome such a change, but the church is strongly opposed to it, and the tradition of the church concerning a movable Easter will not easily be overcome. Any such reform will also have to be universal throughout Christendom, for the moon-controlled Easter is common to all civilized countries; though, owing to the fact that the Greek church still uses the Julian Calendar, there are nearly always two Easter Days every year, one the Gregorian, observed by Roman Catholics and Protestants, and the other the Julian, kept by those countries which are in communion with the Greek church.

CONSIDERATION FOR THE SOLDIER

(New York Times)

In the English building trades there is at the present a shortage of skilled labor. Lloyd George told the Commons a few days ago that plans had been made and contracts let which would give employment to 20,000 more men. The Government had proposed to the builders to take on that number of ex-soldiers now out of work. But the trades unions would not permit it. They would not have their monopoly diluted. The only right the ex-servicemen had was to be idle.

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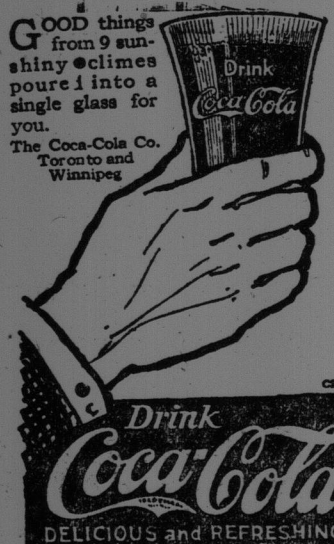
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JOHN DOUGHTY FOUND GUILTY

Toronto, March 25.—John Doughty is guilty of theft of \$105,000 in bonds belonging to Ambrose J. Small, the missing theatre owner, according to the verdict of a jury at the sessions yesterday afternoon.

The charge of conspiracy to kidnap Small will be laid over till May.

IT IS NOW THE HON. MRS. RALPH SMITH

Victoria, B. C., March 25.—Premier Oliver stated today that the report sent out that the Hon. Mrs. Ralph Smith, sworn in yesterday as a member of the cabinet, without portfolio, would also act as president of the council, was erroneous. The premier said that he would continue to preside over all meetings of the legislative council.

WHOD HAVE THOUGHT IT?

(Providence Journal)

What prophet seven years ago would have been so rash as to predict that in 1921 French, British and Belgian troops would be marching deep into German territory and not encountering a hostile shot?

You get a wrinkle and then you fret,
And fretting tires the brain,
The more you get the more you fret,
It is an endless chain.

—Louisville Courier-Journal.



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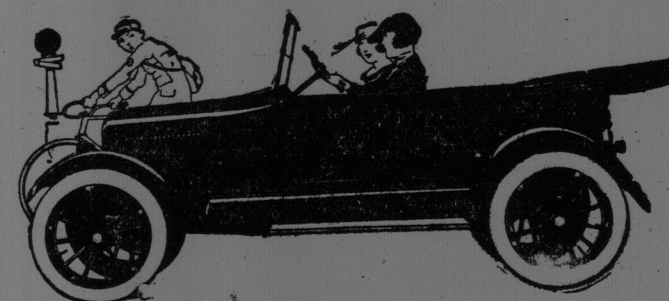
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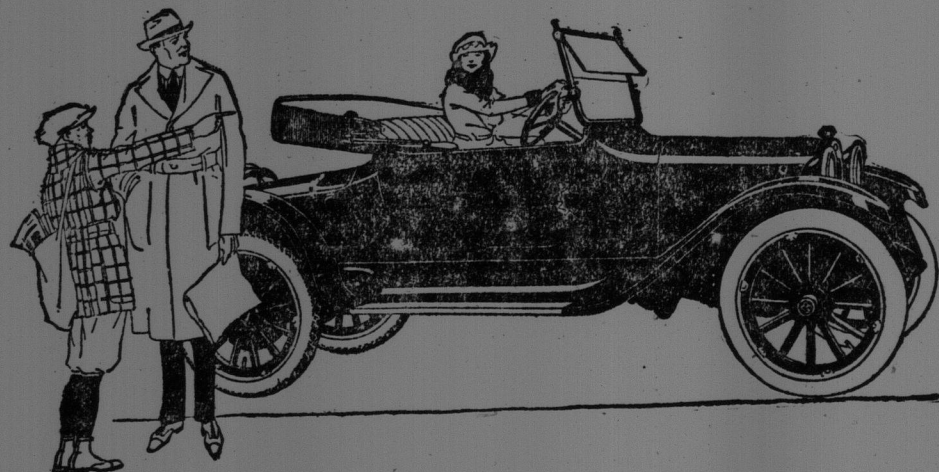
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