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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1922.

THE BISHOP OF ROME.

When the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church meet in conclave today to elect the successor to Pope Benedict XV, the College will proceed to choose the Bishop of Rome, and not, except indirectly, the chief pastor of the Church.

The Bishop of the Roman See is the supreme head of the Church, but he does not become bishop by virtue of his having been elected Pope, he becomes Pope because the Roman clergy have elected him the bishop of their diocese. One of the XXXIX Articles of the Church of England runs:—"The Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this realm of England." Not the Pope of Rome, but the Bishop.

Thus an election to the Papacy becomes primarily the election of a local bishopric. The right to elect a bishop belongs to the members of the Church, but in accordance with the rule, in ecclesiastical affairs, it is always for the hierarchy to guide the decisions of the flock. The Roman Cardinals exercise the privilege of election simply by reason of the fact that they are the chief of the Roman clergy.

The rules governing the election of the Bishop of Rome have been fixed to meet situations and conditions that have arisen in the past.

They have not been fixed arbitrarily and little or nothing has been left to the discretion of the electors. It is required that the Cardinals wait ten days before the assembling of the Conclave to give their absent brethren time to meet with them. That time expired, they must proceed to election whether all are present or not.

Until the Conclave has completed its duties, the Cardinals are secluded from the outside world. They must meet in the place where the death of the Pope has taken place, or, if that is impossible, in the nearest suitable city not under interdict, at the house of the Bishop or some suitable place. All are compelled to assemble in a single room, without partition or hanging, and live in common. This room and another to which they may go freely are so closed that no one may go in or out unobserved. No communications may be received from outside except such as may have to do with the election and, then only with the knowledge of all the Cardinals. No message can be sent outside if after three days the Cardinals do not arrive at a decision they receive for five days but one dish of food at noon and their evening meals. If after the expiration of the five days, there has been no election, only bread, wine, and water can be their fare. No other business can be taken up, except some necessity impertiling the Church or its possessions. In case of the sickness of a Cardinal he may retire, and return when health has been restored.

The seclusion of the Cardinals during an election has been the rule since the election of 1271, which resulted in the election of Gregory X after the Conclave had lasted over two years and nine months. At that time the local authorities, weary of the delay, shut the Cardinals up, and this has been the rule since that time. The object of the seclusion is to prevent delays caused by outside intervention, of which there was graver danger when the rule was made than there would be at the present time.

A Pope is not elected until two-thirds of the Cardinals present have given their vote for him.

ENGLAND'S DIVIDED LIBERALS

The attacks on Mr. Lloyd George by Mr. Asquith and Viscount Grey, at the recent meeting of representatives of the Independent Liberals, merely emphasized the failure, already apparent, of recent efforts to bring about a reunion of the divided Liberal party. For a time it was thought that Mr. Lloyd George would seize the occasion offered by the meeting of Coalition Liberals to break away from the Coalition and launch a new reconstructed Liberal party with himself as leader. But before the speech was delivered he had yielded to the Conservative ultimatum against an early general election, and had taken his stand for carrying on with the Coalition a while longer. In the closing words of his speech he deprecated the revival of party strife while international affairs are in so serious a state.

To this part of his speech Lord Grey specially directed his remarks, declaring it intolerable that there should be a cabinet divided by party politics in itself, and no opposition and no party politics outside. He also took sides with M. Poincare in opposition to Mr. Lloyd George's plan of transacting foreign affairs by conference. "The Supreme Council," he said, "has undertaken that task and confidence which existed between France and ourselves for so many years."

The Supreme Council, he added, had lately been fatal to a French prime minister, and his successor apparently desired not to have as much to do with it. He called the re-establishment of good relations with France the most vital thing in Europe today. With much justice he observed: "Until that old trust and confidence is restored between the two governments, no conference, none of these attempts to reconstruct Europe, will fare well." But he gave no hint of the lines on which a Liberal Government following the tradition of the old diplomacy would seek to establish such relations with the Poincare ministry by using the conservative methods of the old diplomacy, and altogether his speech, like that of Mr. Asquith showed the lack of a constructive programme on which the two wings of the Liberal party can come together. This week Lord Grey is speaking at Edinburgh and Mr. Asquith at Bolton. A brisk agitation on the side of the independent Liberals, with Lord Gladstone in charge has begun, but a time has not been set for an election, and until it becomes considerably more imminent the present anomalous political compromise is likely to endure.

IRELAND'S PROMISING START.

One of the strangest of legislative sessions was that held the other day in Dublin by the House of Commons of Southern Ireland. Elected nearly a year ago, the chamber had never before assembled. Of its 128 members only four—those returned by the constituency of Trinity College—were in sympathy with the Home Rule Act under which it was created. Not one of the others had expected ever to occupy the seat for which he was chosen at the polls. And in less than an hour the body dissolved itself, never to meet again.

But although this parliamentary session was probably the shortest on record, it was likewise one of the most decisive. In less time than might be consumed in reading a minor bill, it ratified the Anglo-Irish treaty and established a provisional government of a self-governing nation. Thus a system which had prevailed in various forms for more than 700 years was revolutionized in fifteen minutes.

Through this prompt and peaceful consummation was brought into actual being the Irish Free State. After centuries of repression, a vigorous and highly gifted race starts along the path of untrammeled nationhood with every promise of fulfilling a great destiny. It is true that factionalism will strive to wreck the settlement, and that there are tasks of adjustment and construction ahead which will tax to the uttermost the country's resources of statesmanship. But a steadying leadership has already revealed itself in workmanlike administrative procedure, and with more dramatic effect in bringing near to solution the baffling problem of disunion between the North and the South.

The activities of the obstructionists have attracted less attention than the remarkable developments toward peace. Every newspaper in Ireland supports the Free State. The Southern Unionists have formally expressed their desire to cooperate in making the government a success. Most significant of all, an hour's conversation between Michael Collins and Sir James Craig, the Ulster Premier, produced an agreement upon vital questions concerning which reconciliation had been deemed almost impossible. It was arranged that the two governments will settle their boundary dispute themselves, instead of by a joint commission headed by a British nominee; that the Southern boycott of Ulster trade should be lifted, and the discrimination against Catholic workers in the Belfast shipyards ended, and that the governments cooperate in settling a threatened railroad strike.

Moreover, they are to "endeavor to devise a more suitable system than the Council of Ireland (provided by the Home Rule Act) for dealing with problems affecting all Ireland." This last agreement is obviously a step toward hastening national unity. Advocates of self-government for Ireland have always contended that its establishment would eventually lead to union with Ulster and the rest of Ireland, but few had hoped for such early evidences of a spirit of cooperation. The whole world will welcome this promise of a broader and surer Irish peace, based upon true nationalism.

The Provincial Financial Statement issued the other day, deals only with the accounts down to 31 October last. It wasn't necessary therefore for the Comptroller-General to make any reference to the wages paid to the chauffeurs of the seven Government-owned automobiles that were used in the interests of the Liberal candidates in the Dominion Election on December 6th; nor as to who paid for the 290 gallons of gasoline that these cars used up when running around the country carrying Liberal speakers to campaign meetings and voters to the polls. Standing as he does as a buffer between the Government and the people, and charged with the task of seeing that the latter get fair play, the C. G. will of course disallow all expenditures in this connection.

It is said by Liberal correspondents that Mr. Fielding is going to reduce Government expenses in many ways. The Civil Service now costs $65,000,000, and many reforms in the interest of economy can be made. The new Finance Minister will deserve credit if he manages to get through the reorganization. The late Government found out a good deal about the difficulties of the job.

The New York World says Hearst is "an active, ingenious, unscrupulous demagogue." That, thinks the Ottawa Journal, should hold him for a couple of days.

It is said that New York water has a peculiar flavor, and the fact is laid to some kind of bug found in it. We would think it more likely that what they have to leave out of it is what makes it taste so strange.

Evangeline Booth says that women have no right to fool the world by using cosmetics and powder. Where did the lady get the idea that they are fooling anyone?

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Man of Power.

(Syracuse Post-Standard.)

Mr. George will go to the Genoa conference with the good will of Wirth of Germany, Lenine of Russia, and Bonomi of Italy—a strange assorted company, indeed, but a powerful. The French premier, whoever he may be, will not have the strength with his own people that the Welsh man has, and he will not have the allies. Not in generations has the head of the British Government held the power in Europe that Lloyd George holds today.

Inglorious Man Hunt.

(Winnipeg Tribune.)

Hon. Arthur Meighen's victory in Grenville is a well-deserved rebuke to the agencies that sought his personal humiliation and political effacement.

No public issues were involved in the by-election. These had all been decided by the electors on Dec. 6th.

The question thrust upon Grenville was whether the defeated leader of a defeated party should be hunted into political oblivion or left to voice in parliament the principles of a party still strong in numbers and assuredly entitled to a voice in the direction of the country's affairs.

To this question Grenville gave a most emphatic reply, a reply in which it would appear many Liberals and probably some generously inclined Progressives joined.

The result of the election in its relation to the merits or demerits of the party Mr. Meighen leads, or even to the merits of Mr. Meighen's leadership means nothing. Its significance lies in an altogether different direction.

Grenville's verdict is evidence that the rule of live and let live is a principle which sometimes needs to be invoked in political as in our ordinary life. Coming so soon after the general elections in which Mr. Meighen's government sustained a crushing defeat, it is evidence that an electorate which knows how to be severe knows also how to be just. It is altogether to the credit of Hon. T. A. Crerar that in this inglorious man hunt he held aloof.

Mr. Murdock and Labor Pessimism.

(Ottawa Journal.)

The attitude of the new Minister of Labor, Hon. James Murdock, toward the relationship between capital and labor, outlined in his address at the annual dinner of the Ottawa Board of Trade, is sane and reasonable. Objection cannot fairly be taken to it by either employers or workmen or by the interested general public. His advice to both elements in the labor struggle is good advice, his views as to what each is entitled to are just. He indicates his purpose to try and have his views prevail. But to what extent can the influence of the Minister of Labor avail toward the realization of his aims? Mr. Murdock expressed the opinion that conditions had been growing worse since the close of the war. But his predecessor in the Ministry, Hon. Gideon Robertson, has been offering the same advice as Mr. Murdock year in and year out, has been using his office to have capital and labor approach their problems in just the same spirit that Mr. Murdock desires them to approach it. If Murdock is right in his opinion that conditions have grown worse, there is little justification for the hopefulness of the new Minister. But perhaps there has not been the retrograde movement that he pictures. If anything, there has seemed to be an increasing willingness on the part of both capital and labor to meeting each other on common ground, to consider fairly each other's position. As the Minister points out, some labor leaders have obstructed this tendency, presenting labor in a false light. Labor as a whole, for example, is not inclined to disregard the obligations of contracts either in sympathetic strikes or otherwise, but some of its mistaken spokesmen have succeeded at times in leading it astray. Similarly, as Mr. Murdock says, these professional leaders of labor have manufactured grievances where none existed, and not infrequently grave trouble has resulted. It is for labor to set its face against these influences that work to its ultimate injury. Mr. Murdock's attitude appears to be in all respects impartial, and it should have an educative effect. Neither capital nor labor is deliberately deaf to disinterested advice and help.

The Family Purse:

(London Advertiser.)

Once more a judge has stated his opinion as being that a woman is quite within her rights in taking money out of the pockets of her husband's trousers.

The pity is that women find it necessary at times to resort to such practices—likewise that men think it necessary to keep their money out of the wife's reach.

The family purse is a mutual affair, and is the property of husband and wife.

The sooner married people get away from the "hand-out" idea and policy, the better for them both.

A man and wife who cannot sit down and plan the family budget and apportion the income are missing a lot of fun, and passing up the basis of a good working arrangement.

Canada at Washington.

(Ottawa Journal.)

The New York Herald, discussing the appointment of a Canadian Minister to Washington, thinks failure to fill the post may be due to the British Foreign Office. The Herald's idea, it can be stated with authority, is entirely wrong. The position is simply this: that Mr. Meighen, before going to England, last summer, was unable to find a suitable man, and, on his return, felt that the filling of such an important post ought to await the result of the election. There was interference from nobody, least of all from the British Government.

In The Journal's opinion the post ought to be filled. It ought to be filled, not because of queer notions about our status, but simply because it would undoubtedly promote better business and more friendly relations between the two countries.

THE LAUGH LINE

"Flivver" She Did.

Mary drove her little flivver,
In a way to make one shiver,
When upon the gas she stepped,
One noticed she was no adept.
Mary is the churchyard lies;
'Neath green trees and sunny skies.
Her car refused to climb a pole—
That's why she's now in such a hole.

Proof.

"Yes, sir, it's pretty hard collecting money just now; I know it."

"Have you tried and failed?"

"Oh, no!"

"How then do you know that money is hard to collect?"

"Because several people have tried to collect some from me."

He Knew His Sums.

Teacher—Johnny, what's six and four?

Johnny—Lever.

Teacher—No.

Johnny—Nine? Eight? Twelve? Thirteen?

Teacher—How about ten?

Johnny—Aw, you can't catch me like that. Five 'n' five is ten.

The Teeth Teest.

Mr. Blink—The chicken is at least fourteen years old.

Mr. Scoop—By what do you tell a chickens age?

Mr. Blink—By the teeth.

Mr. Scoop—Quit your fool talk; a chicken has no teeth.

Mr. Blink—No; but I have.

He was Startled, Though.

Landlady (reproachfully to new boarder)—Don't be alarmed, Mr. Jenks, the meat is all right.

He—Im not afraid, Mrs. Fry. I've seen twice as much meat at times and I was never scared.

A Run For Your Money.

Sparks—"My doctor advised me to take up motoring for my health; said I needed exercise."

Plugg—"Pshaw, running a car is no exercise."

Sparks—"No, but getting the money to pay for it is."

Something Else.

"Here's a man found five pearls in an oyster stew. Wonderful, isn't it?"

"Oh, fairly startling. I thought you were going to try to tell me he believe he found nine oysters."

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Me and Puds Simkins was standing next to the lam post looking up the street and Puds sed, O heer comes Sam Cross up in back of us, good nite I bet he thinks he's sneaking up on us without us seeing him, haw haw thats a joke on him all rite.

Lets pertend we're tawking about him and dont know he's anywares erround, I sed.

Wich we started to do jest wen Sam Cross came up in back of us wawking on his rubber heels, me saying, Hay Puds wats you know about that guy Sam Cross, I think he's one of the deceetfullest guys I ever herd of.

Me too, so do I, that guys so deceetfull he never wares anything but rubber heels and thats the ony reason he wares them, you cant tell me, sed Puds.

Sure, you cant tell me, Sam Cross is a big hunk of cheese, and onybody says he aint, jest refer them to me, I sed.

Wich jest then I quick terned erround, saying, O, is that you, Sam?

Holey smoaks, was you heer all the time? sed Puds, and Sam sed, I certeny was, and Im sorry to say Im glad to know wat you guys think of me. And he took a big candy cane out of his inside pockit and started to bite hunks off of one end, saying, Id like to offer you guys some, ony I know you wouldent take it off of a deceetfull guy like me, I wouldent insult you by asking you to take it off of a big hunk of cheese like me.

Aw heck, Sam, wats the matter, we was ony kidding, wats the matter, we knew you was there all the time, we was jest feeling, wats the matter, sed me and Puds. Wich the more we told him we was ony pertending the more he acted as if like heck we was, and he finished eating the candy cane by himself without me and Puds asking him for a hunk on account of being too proud and knowing he would ony say no enyhow.

Proving you awt never say enything bad about a persin behind their back espeshilly if they are neer enuff to heer it.

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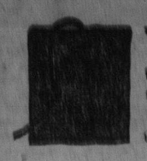

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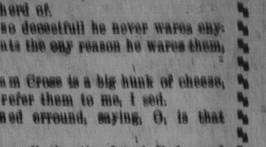

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FRANCO-BRITISH REGARDING

Germany Is One and Russia Asia Minor Provides An George and Poincare Ar

By COL. E. M. HOUSE.
In the Boston Transcript.

Philadelphia, Feb. 1.—There is wide interest in the contest now in progress between France and Great Britain, as represented by Lloyd George on the one hand and Poincare on the other. Back of Poincare are Millerand and the vocal part of France. Just where the sturdy peasant and manufacturer stands is something which will develop later. At the moment it is sufficient for Poincare to know that he has with him a majority of the Chamber of Deputies and the president of the republic.

Millerand and Lloyd George never pulled well together in negotiations and Millerand seems now to see eye to eye with Poincare. On the surface there is but little difference between Lloyd George's spoken position and that of Poincare. They both assert that they desire the execution of the terms of the treaty as to reparations, Poincare giving it more emphasis, perhaps, but Lloyd George gets the less in him in his assertion that Germany must pay as stated in the bond.

Positions Really Wide Apart.

As a matter of fact, they are wide apart in their positions, and this will become clear when Germany fails to meet her payments and measures are proposed to enforce them. Then will come the real trial of strength between the spokesmen of France and Great Britain. Poincare doubtless will insist upon punitive measures which may include the occupation of the Ruhr or beyond, and the great and efficient war machine against may be invoked and brought to bear heavily on Germany.

If this is done, resentment is certain to follow in Great Britain and Lloyd George in opposing such measures will have the backing of a united public opinion. Whether France will go on in the face of this opposition remains to be seen, but it is certain that the element in France represented by Poincare is impatient of the curb Great Britain is placing constantly upon her Continental policy.

The interests of the French and British do not run parallel, and it will be increasingly difficult to work in harmony. The British desire Continental composure and stability, even though it involves a powerful and prosperous Germany. British trade is languishing and British taxes are the most burdensome in all Europe. One reason for the slackening of trade is the near elimination of her German markets. A glance at the export figures before the war and now will tell the story. These markets never can be open to British trade as they were before 1914 if the German mark remains at its present value and German industry continues in its present state of disorganization. It is not merely a question of peace with Great Britain; it is a question of existence. Her population is too large for subsist upon her agricultural resources and is dependent upon her industries.

Differ as to Russia Also.

Great Britain and France differ in policy not only as to Germany, but as

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