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London, Ont., Friday, November 3,

British Hard Hitters.

WHAT has become of all the niceties that are supposed to be linked up with the conduct of British political affairs? In Canada men get a bit rough around election times, but it can never be urged that we should cast an eye over the ocean to see how a peaceful election should be carried on and what personalities should be avoided.

Winston Churchill has been a sick man, undergoing an operation for appendicitis, and it might be supposed that he would be given some little consideration until such time as he was able to get around and take care of himself once more.

But here we have a very prominent Britisher replying to some of Churchill's statements, adding that as far as his memory is concerned some of it must have been removed at the time the surgeons opened him up and took away his appendix.

Of course there is a sort of British wit capable of turning out a very nice phrase that has a good-natured satire attached to it. For instance, one cabinet minister refers to the Coalition government as having departed "unwept, unbidden and un-
tuned."

It is increasingly certain that old party lines have been rather thoroughly broken down. One English writer, referring to the attempt at making capital out of old party slogans as a battle with bladders, where every person makes a great deal of noise, but no person gets hurt. The fact that old party lines have lost their strength may be accounted for on the ground that the men heading them are not as forceful as they were in the past. Disraeli was a great force and a great fact, so was Gladstone, and it did make a difference which of these facts and forces guided the affairs of the empire. It is harder today to get back to the old party lines because there are no old parties to get back to in the strict sense of the word.

The Liberal party is showing evidence of strength, but it is split. Asquith brings to the followers who recognize him a prestige and an oratorical ability, but it is a fact that the party's strength has been sapped by followers who have gone over to the Labor group. It is somewhat parallel to the situation that has developed in Canadian politics, where the Liberal party has been drawn from more than the Conservative to make up the group that now sits in the House under the leadership of the U. F. O. chief.

Is there a Unionist party left?

There was a time when it was Conservative in its attitude that it became to a great extent dominated by the Tories. It stood in the first place, and stood stubbornly, for the union of Ireland and Britain, and against inroads of the teaching that called for the separation of church and state. The Unionists fought home rule for Ireland for years, even to the point of imperial embarrassment. Then when they came into the Coalition they supported things that gave Ireland for greater scope than measures they had formerly opposed. They had proved to their own satisfaction that Gladstonian home rule would be disastrous to England and worse than that for Ireland, and yet finally supported Dominion home rule, which is much nearer the line of complete separation than anything Gladstone ever proposed. And in this same connection, when cleaning up the Irish trouble, they voted to pardon men who were guilty of worse offences than had ever been committed at the time of the Land League in the eighties. Then the church has been disestablished in Wales, so a big point has been lost there. In fact it looks as though their thunder had departed.

HAS there been a set-back for Labor in the municipal elections in England that will be reflected in the voting on November 15? That is the problem that will be uppermost in the minds of the Labor leaders, and of their opponents as well. There can be no doubt that the returns, showing as they do a series of decided set-backs for Labor, will have to be considered serious, as they must, to some extent reflect the attitude of the voters who will again go to the polls on the 15th.

Labor can at least claim that although driven back to some extent, it has at least kept the ground it gained in the elections of 1919. On the face of it, Labor has suffered a set-back, and it will be a surprise if there can be enough new ground turned between now and November 15 to offset the feeling of antagonism that undoubtedly exists in the minds of many of the electors of England.

Returning Thanks.

HE was a young man standing on the street corner waiting for the street car in the evening. He was talking to another young man about his own age, and conversation turned, as it readily will, to matters of dress and clothing and new styles.

The first young man was remarking about the way in which the cuffs

on his friend's shirts were standing up against a couple of days' wear, and apologized for his own, which were a little softer, by saying "the old woman has been doing my shirts lately because she thinks she can do them better than the laundry."

Now, he may not have meant a very great deal, and it may have been carelessness or lack of thought on his part, but the sting was there just the same.

The "old woman," his mother, had been doing the best she could for the boy, probably trying to save him a little money, and at the same time entertaining the perfectly good idea that as a laundress she was just about the last word in that business.

She had probably laundered his clothes from the year one of his young life—bought them, patched them, washed them.

And today he stands on the street corner and refers to the poor quality of the work turned out by the "old woman."

Making Them Loyal.

SOVIET Russia is going to stage a national celebration on Tuesday of next week.

Five years ago on that date the Reds got Krasnaya in a corner and took matters in their own hands.

And he it noted that the Reds of Russia order a celebration for such an event they make sure that it shall be a nation-wide, house-to-house affair.

Every house must hang out a red flag at least a yard in length.

If they do not they will get a fine or a jail sentence, either of which is liable to be several yards in length.

Thus is loyalty and its outward expression being placed on a new and a mighty poor basis.

Symbols of loyalty that spring from fear of fine or punishment will disappear when the bayonet is taken from under their chin and the hand of the law from their neck.

LITTLE 'TISERS

Uncle Sam is in doubts about the broadening out policy now that Cuba has applied for another \$50,000,000.

One fair inquirer asks, "How can I make my bobbed hair long?" Answer furnished by the janitor—Use your head.

Cincinnati woman says hundreds have died from kissing. Perhaps so, sister, but hundreds more are dying to be kissed.

Talk about tamed lions—we know three or four chaps who deliver their pay envelope to friend wife without the seal being broken.

Official figures do tell queer things in a state story of way. Thus did we read of how much spaghetti United States shipped to Italy last year.

Wish the weather would take a turn. There hasn't been a chance yet to spring that fine old chestnut about putting on the itchy underwear.

As Christmas draws near it might be well for the head of the house to create the impression that he's about to be dropped from the payroll.

An etiquette expert says it's quite proper to pick chicken bones with the fingers. Fine, and it's also quite proper, when you get the neck, to hop down on the floor and put your foot on it.

BENITO MUSSOLINI, once chased out of Italy, then out of Switzerland and also out of Austria, now becomes premier of Italy. So don't be discouraged if the boss fires you off the job. You may return some day to run the business.

Man from Montreal is in jail for something he said in his paper. The *Arc*. Of names there are no end. In the West there used to be the *Rip Saw*, the *Blade* and the *Lancet*. As far as we know, the *Daily Frying Pan* has not yet made its appearance.

A practical joker took a red lantern off an open bridge near Simcoe and placed it at a point farther down the road. This came out at an inquest on a man whose car plunged into the river because there was no light to warn him. We would get along splendidly without the practical joker.

Now they announce from Ottawa the "official" returns of the voting in Russell a week or so back, where the Liberal had a majority of 2,143, and a lead of 1,907 over the two candidates who opposed him. Very nice, but the newspapers told you all about it a couple of hours after they'd closed the voting places.

The U. F. A., published at Calgary and recognized as the mouthpiece of H. W. Woon, says there must be no fusion between Progressives and Liberals, because Progressives were not named for any such purpose. Apparently in the spell between sessions the Progressives of Western Canada are being well schooled in the fact that they simply must quit winking at the Liberals who sit across from them in the national schoolhouse at Ottawa.

On a train going through Quebec Province a Russian sat down in a coach, and a short time after took out a large knife and made a murderous attack on two men. How many of these weapons are carried? Every time there is a tragedy comes a crusade to disarm all foreigners and others. These spells of carefulness soon wear out, not to be revived

until another stabbing has taken place.

Campaign fund management has not advanced very far in Britain, and it is freely admitted that the size of funds and where they come from is known only to a very few people. The charge is freely made that titles and preferences are sold at a well-defined schedule, and the amount paid over to the whip of the party in power. It is a condition that lends nothing at all to the dignity that is supposed to surround the conduct of the nation's business in London.

A Real Man's Job

By A. R. K.

JOHN W. DAVIS, former United States ambassador to Britain, has no doubt in his own mind regarding the feeling that should and must exist between these two nations. He is no student of or apologist for the doctrine of splendid isolation that is taught so freely in the republic.

The appreciation of the British Empire expressed by Mr. Davis is a sincere compliment, and written with a knowledge of facts and an acquaintance with recently-made history.

"One-fourth of the human race," he writes, "is under its allegiance; no doubt the greatest number assembled under a common flag in the history of mankind. The very size of such an aggregation is impressive; and the great war proved that the ties which bind this heterogeneous mass together are something more than ropes of sand. What nation in all the world can afford to be ignorant of its true relation to so great a factor in the affairs of mankind?"

"Least of all can America, for many urgent reasons. In the first place, the British Empire is—Mexico alone excepted—our nearest neighbor. Look at the map. To the north lies Canada with a common boundary of 4,300 miles, open and undefended. Off our Atlantic seaboard are the Bermudas and the Bahamas, while in the Caribbean our outposts are ringed about by British Honduras, Jamaica, Barbadoes and Trinidad. In the Pacific the nearest islands to the Hawaiian group are the Philippines, under the flag of Great Britain, and the British Hong Kong, look out upon the south to British North Borneo, with Australia and New Zealand standing guard lower down. Turn away from the map, and wherever fly the Stars and Stripes, hard by is the Union Jack.

Lay down the map and take up the commercial reports. You will see there record of the fact that the British Empire is incomparably our best foreign customer. In the year 1921, for instance, it took more than one-third of all that we sent abroad, and in our turn took from that source from one-fourth to one-third of our imports. During the first six months of 1922, more than 20 per cent of our exports went to the same great purchaser; Great Britain alone taking as much as all the rest of Europe outside Germany, combined, and Canada, an amount equal to a half times that of Germany.

The American farmer sends his tobacco and cotton and foodstuffs to the British Isles, the manufacturer his goods to the dominions and to India. Our foreign trade and domestic prosperity would be in bitter straits if markets such as these were ever closed.

Put to one side strategic and commercial questions, and there remains the indisputable fact that the people of the British Empire, at least those who speak the English tongue, are our next of kin. Many races have given their blood to nourish the mighty tree that has grown upon the North American continent; but the root stock still remains English or Scotch or Welsh or Irish in its derivation.

"What, therefore, is the conclusion? A patriotic American, in exact proportion to his concern for the present welfare and future peace of his country, will recognize that the power which rules the destiny of men has decreed that the British Empire and its people shall touch the life of America and Americans at more vital points than any other nation does or can do. He will concern himself to see that this inevitable contact is made a source of blessing and not of ban to both peoples and to mankind."

There are enough men seeking to plant barbed wire, thistles and weeds in the path of Anglo-American relationships. When a man arises who can intelligently sow goodwill, let him have room to work and good soil in which to plant.

The BOOKSHELF

THE WOODCARVER'S WIFE AND OTHER POEMS: By Marjorie Pickthall; McClelland & Stewart, Toronto. Price, \$1.50.

Coming as it does, a posthumous edition of Marjorie Pickthall's poetic work, the recent McClelland and Stewart collection of the loved author's poetry has a peculiar message of its own.

Isabel Ecclestone MacKay writes a beautiful preface. She says in part:

"It is inevitable that a note of sadness should attach itself to a book whose author has not lived to see its publication. The last poem written in her own hand in the manuscript book is 'The Vision' and however we may interpret it, it rings most gladly comfort. There is no hint here of wear, of unfulfilled promise, of unfulfilled, but a sure knowledge and content that life and death are one."

"Can anyone reading 'The Woodcarver's Wife' doubt that its writer knew its passions and despairs, its exaltations and strange cruelties? To ask whence comes this sure and subtle knowledge is to ask the unanswerable. It is the poet's brightness—one can say no more than that."

The title poem is a quaintly simple, but powerfully tragic domestic drama of early French Canada. The remaining portion of the volume is made up of a variety of lyrics, showing the author's wide range of theme and wonderful technical skill.

The Great Train Robbery. I came near being in a train robbery on my last trip.

How exciting! Yes, but at the last minute we decided not to eat in the diner.

A Poor Flame.

He—"Be mine, darling. You are the lamp that alone can light my existence."

She—"Yes, dear, but papa doesn't think you are a good match for me."



H. G. WELLS' FAMOUS OUTLINE OF HISTORY

The Romance of Mother Earth

How Writing Was Invented

TODAY'S INSTALLMENT—47.

PROBLEMS IN HISTORY.

DO YOU KNOW—

How the practice of writing grew out of the early life of man?

DO YOU KNOW—

What monumental service to the civilized world was performed by the wandering singing bands of ancient days?

DO YOU KNOW—

How man's innate desire to make a cult and mystery of his individual knowledge for the mystification of other men impeded the world's progress for centuries?

DO YOU KNOW—

How short a while ago knowledge ceased to be the jealously guarded privilege of the favored minority?

Answers in tomorrow's installment of H. G. Wells' "Outline of History."

sound "fang" meant not only "boat," but "a place," "spinning," "fragrant," "inquire," and several other meanings according to the context. But while a boat is easy to draw, most of the other meanings are unobtainable. How can one draw "fragrant" or "inquire"?

The Chinese, therefore, took the same sign for all their meanings of "fang," but added to each of them another distinctive sign, the determinative, to show what sort of fang was intended. A "place" was indicated by the same sign as for "boat" (fang) and the determinative sign for "earth," "spinning" by the sign for fang and the sign for "silk," "inquire" by the sign for fang and the sign for "words," and so on.

One may perhaps make this development of pictographs, ideographs, and phonograms a little clearer by taking an analogous case in English.

How To Make a "Phonogram." Suppose we were making up a sort of picture-writing in English, then it would be very natural to use a square with a slanting line to suggest a lid, for the word and thing "box." That would be a pictograph. But now suppose we had a round sign for money, and suppose we put this sign inside the box sign, that would do for "cash-box" or "treasury." That would be an ideogram.

But the word "box" is used for other things than boxes. There is the box shrub which gives us boxwood. It would be hard to draw a recognizable box-tree distinct from other trees, but it is quite easy to put our sign for shrubs as a determinative to determine that it is that sort of box and not a common box that we want to express. And then there is "box," the verb, meaning to fight with fists. Here, again, we need a determinative; we might add the two crossed swords, a sight which is used very often upon signs to denote a battle. A box at a theatre needs yet another determinative, and so we go on, through a long series of phonograms.

Now it is manifest that here in the Chinese writing is a very peculiar and complex system of sign-writing. A very great number of characters have to be learned and the mind habituated to their use. The power it possesses to carry ideas and discussion is still unguaged by western standards, but we may doubt whether with this instrument it will ever be possible to establish such a wide, common mentality as the simpler and swifter alphabets of the western civilizations permit.

In China it created a special reading-class, the *shih-shih*, who were also the ruling and official class. Their necessary concentration upon words and classical forms, rather than upon ideas and realities, seems, in spite of her comparative peacefulness and the very high individual intellectual quality of her people, to have greatly hampered the social and economic development of China.

Probably it is the complexity of her speech and writing, more than any other imaginable cause, that has made China today politically, socially, and individually a vast pool of backward people rather than the foremost power in the world.

But while the Chinese mind thus made for itself an instrument which is probably too elaborate in structure, too laborious in use, and too inflexible in its form to meet the modern need for simple, swift, exact, and lucid communications, the growing civilizations of the west were working out the problem of a written record upon rather different and, on the whole, more advantageous lines. They did not seek to improve their script to make it swift and easy, but circumstances conspired to make it so.

25 YEARS AGO TODAY

HERE WE HAVE ITEMS OF DISTRICT AND WORLD INTEREST AS RECORDED IN THE ADVERTISER OF 1897.

Weather—Fine; unsettled conditions tomorrow.

The directors of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Halifax have been authorized to increase the capitalization from \$150,000 to \$2,000,000 in the near future.

The Tammany Hall victory in the first municipal election of the new city of Greater New York is a sweeping one. Van Wyck, the Democrat candidate on the ticket, led the polls with a vote of 235,181.

The G. T. R. has broken ground for the erection of their new roundhouse at Sarnia tunnel, which will contain 30 stalls.

The largest gun ever built in the world is now under construction for the United States government at the

Bethlehem, Penna., steel works. This cannon, when completed, will weigh 126 tons and will have a range of sixteen miles. It is planned to place it at the entrance to New York harbor.

Police Court Clerk Moule is on the sick list and has not been at the police court for two days.

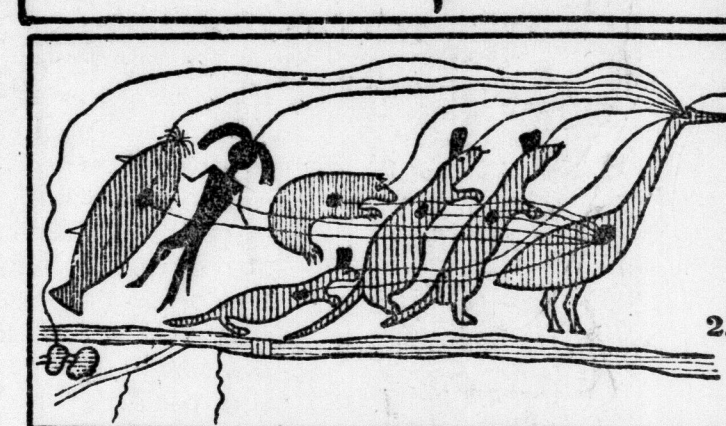
Several hundred copies of "Illustrated London" are in the city clerk's office waiting to be mailed to the British high commissioner and leading British editors.

A west-bound freight train on the C. P. R. collided with a yard engine at Havelock last night at 11:30. Brakeman Copp and Fireman Curtis were slightly injured and Engineer Weston had one side broken.

and to this writing became entirely a sign-for-a-sound writing. It was so used by the Assyrians and by the Chaldeans. But it was not a letter-writing, it was a syllable-writing. This cuneiform script prevailed for long ages over Assyria, Babylonia and the near East generally; there

are vestiges of it in some of the letters of our alphabet today.

Copyright, 1921, by the Macmillan Company. Published by arrangement with McClure Newspaper Syndicate. Tomorrow: "The Origin of the Alphabet."



Specimens of American Indian picture-writing (after Schoolcraft.)

No. 1, painted on a rock on the shore of Lake Superior, records an expedition across the lake, in which five canoes took part. The upright strokes in each indicate the number of the crew, and the bird represents a chief. "The Kingfisher." The three circles (suns) under the arch (of heaven) indicate that the voyage lasted three days, and the tortoise, a symbol of land, denotes a safe arrival.

No. 2 is a petition sent to the United States Congress by a group of Indian tribes, asking for fishing rights in certain small lakes. The catfish, led by the crane. Lines running from the heart and eye of each animal to the heart and eye of the crane denote that they are all of one mind; and a line runs from the eye of the crane to the lakes, shown in the crude little "map" in the lower left-hand corner.

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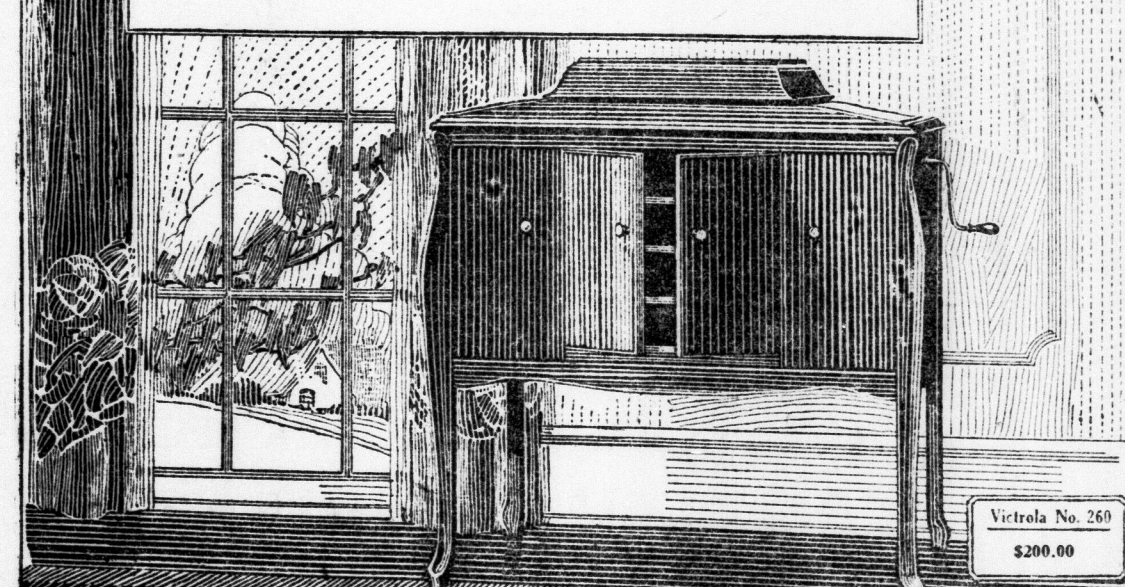
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