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MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1924.

LOYD GEORGE REAPPEARS.

Just when the world is wondering where he is, Mr. Lloyd George reappears in all his glory. His dramatic instinct has never failed since at Limehouse nearly twenty years ago he delivered himself famously of his opinions on the House of Lords, which since then, as Dean Inge has said wittily, has become, thanks to Lloyd George's own efforts, "representative of all classes." The vials of his wrath are still apparently unexhausted, and the quality of their contents as pungent as ever.

On Tuesday at Llanfairfechan in Wales the former Prime Minister paid his respects to the MacDonald Government. "For people who are not accustomed to it, office is a very heavy wine," he said. "Let Ramsay MacDonald wrap a wet towel round his head." The Cabinet, he went on, gave themselves "the airs of Eastern potentates" toward the Liberal party. He reminded them that they remained in power only by the grace of the Liberals and that "no self-respecting party can go on supporting a government that treats them in the way Labor treats the Liberal party."

This sounds like a very definite assurance that the Liberals will soon be asked by their leaders to turn MacDonald out. But what it sounds like and what it is may be very different matters. No living man can manipulate stage thunder to make it sound real more cleverly than Lloyd George. It is not certain that he expected to terrify MacDonald by his threats. It may be all he wanted to do was to arouse the rank and file of the Liberals.

That rank and file appears to be in a paradoxical position with regard to Lloyd George. It admires his ability, the tremendously of course, and it welcomed with enthusiasm his submission to Asquith's leadership on the eve of the last general election. But it is a little leery of him. It has noted a seeming lack of enthusiasm for his leadership in the prodigal. It has been worried because the indubitable master of the House of Commons has been appearing only rarely in the forum where he scored his greatest triumphs. There have been grumbles not without ground.

It is on the cards that the Llanfairfechan speech will press Mr. Asquith's downfall as Liberal leader sooner than that of Ramsay MacDonald as Prime Minister.

THE U. S. SOLDIERS' BONUS.

The soldiers' bonus bill has at last passed both houses of the American Congress, subject only to some minor adjustments to be agreed upon in conference. For years, in fact ever since the period of demobilization, this question has been more or less constantly before the American public, but Congress, until the present session, has fought shy of an act which would involve an enormous expenditure of public money and which has never had the support of public opinion. Members of Congress have been charged with playing politics with the bonus issue, and vote-catching motives have been freely imputed to those politicians who have been pressing the legislation forward during the present session—with an eye, it is said, to the November elections. As the Montreal Gazette points out, the late President Harding was opposed to the bonus proposal, and his successor, Mr. Coolidge, has been quite as emphatic in his hostility, going even so far as to intimate his intention to veto the bill, if passed. It has been suggested that a number of the Congressmen who supported the bill did so in the expectation that the presidential veto would protect the treasury while leaving them in a position to go before the electors with solemn professions of good faith and a display of erudite terms. Apparently there were so many of these motives that they upset their own calculations; the bill passed the House of Representatives by 355 votes to 54, despite the utmost opposition of the President, the Republicans getting completely out of hand in the face of what they regarded as a dangerous political predicament. It was still thought that the Senate would save the day, but the Senate has done just what the Lower House did, passed the bill by a vote

of 67 to 17, the majority being sufficient to override the Coolidge veto.

The measure, although called a bonus bill for the purpose of political effect, does not provide for bonuses in the great majority of cases; that is to say, there is not to be an immediate cash distribution except to those whose compensation does not exceed fifty dollars for each individual. The basis of the compensation is one dollar a day for every day of actual service abroad, the first period of sixty days being deducted in both cases. The "bonus," except where the amounts are small, as stated, is to be given in the form of paid-up twenty-year endowment life insurance, the estimate being that eighty-two per cent of the claimants will be alive and entitled to convert their policies into cash at the end of that period; in the meantime, after a lapse of two years, the veteran is to have the right of borrowing from a bank up to ninety per cent of the current cash value of his certificate.

Some Democrats have characterized the scheme as a "gold brick," and a "miserable makeshift," but it is not so regarded by the United States Treasury, or by financial interests generally. The cost has been reckoned at \$2,000,000,000, for which bonds will be sold from time to time, as money is required, and the apprehension of business men is that large amounts of capital will thus be diverted from industrial and commercial use, to the great detriment of the country. The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Mellon, is very strongly opposed to the scheme, on the ground that it will extinguish the surplus created through drastic and sweeping economies, and will produce a deficit which, in turn, will mean increased taxation. The politicians, however, are having their way, and will place this huge additional burden upon the public, whether the public likes it or not, and whether it is just and fair or not. The bonus has been denounced as a political job, and it does present some of the characteristic features of a job. The soldiers' bonus agitation is dead in Canada, but political jobs are still with us.

SMUTS IN ACTION.

A good soldier, an able jurist, and a brilliant political leader, Premier Smuts possesses qualities that will stand him in good stead in the fight he has precipitated in South Africa, remarks the Ottawa Journal. His sudden decision to dissolve Parliament and appeal to the people on an issue which may determine not merely his own political fate, but the political future of his country, shows courage, but it also suggests strategy, for it implies a recognition and adoption of the well known military principle that the most effective method of defence is attack.

Confronted with an opposition of two parties or groups representing widely different aims, and having nothing in common but dislike of the Premier and his Imperialism, Smuts has had to face a concentrated fire of furious criticism and bitter invective to which, hampered by the responsibilities of office and supported by a minority in Parliament, he found himself unable to effectively reply, and which, as he clearly saw, was beginning to seriously disturb the public mind as well as his own position.

But with the capacity of the soldier to decide quickly and strike suddenly he has surprised his opponents by turning defence into attack, splitting the ranks of the two forces and throwing seriously into confusion. How vigorously he is pressing home the advantage gained by his masterly move is already indicated by the cable dispatches from Johannesburg. His scathing denunciation of the secret pact entered into by the Labor party, under Crewe, and the Nationalists, led by the fire-eating Hertzog, as "a miserable subterfuge of immoral hypocrisy" is not mere rhetoric, master though he is of that form of oratory so much despised by ex-Treasury statesmen. Between these two groups, bound by the one tie of antagonism to the Premier, there are differences that cannot conceivably be reconciled by any arrangement or pact that is not sheer pretence. Crewe and his following, mostly Englishmen, know what to expect from his quondam ally, Hertzog, who would, if he could, make South Africa a Dutch republic; and, on the other hand, Hertzog has as little sympathy with the Communistic doctrines of the Labor party as he has with the Imperialism of Smuts.

By forcing them into the open, the Premier has played havoc with the designs of both. Already, the Labor party are in difficulties and indeed disorder, and it looks as if the pact between them and the Nationalists will meet the fate it deserves. Canadians will wish the battle with interest and wish well to Smuts, who like Stevenson's "Alan Breck," is assuredly a "bonnie fighter."

DEMOS IN THE PALACES.

The spirit of demos is playing the seditious imp among the royal palaces of Europe these days. It isn't alone that, preferring his unconcerned companions of the boulevards, the Prince of Wales couldn't be got back to Windsor to say his Easter prayers, though that discommodated gravely the dowagers of both sexes in his native land. Nor is it alone that his royal mother has taken it on herself to see that the furniture has been dusted and the windows cleaned in the suite at Windsor where once Victoria quivered in order that Isabel MacDonald, radi-

cal daughter of a radical Prime Minister, may be comfortable on a visit there.

Nor is it alone that Alfonso XIII. of Spain, and a Bourbon to boot, has said he would rather be a soldier than a king. It is that, taken together, these things are devastating to ancient fidelities; the divinity that doth hedge a king is working these days in a way that would horrify the tutelary cats of Tutankhamen.

However, Queen Mary is no less a queen for knowing how to "ready the house" for the coming of a Scotch lassie with a mind of her own. Nor is Alfonso less a king for being human enough to hark back to younger days when he frightened the duennas with his playful antics at Deauville and on the Place de l'Opera. Nor is Edward P. less a prince because he doesn't care much for geygaws and gossip. Dignity is overdone when it is allowed to cheat the heart of warm impulses.

Premier Ferguson announces his plan to do away with home work by pupils. Tendency of the age is less and less to burn the midnight oil and more and more to burn gasoline of an evening.

After all, how can one expect Harry Thaw to know whether he's crazy or not when even the jurors and doctors change their minds every few years?

A railroad is advertising a one-day trip to Washington for \$5. The price is right, but one day in Washington seems not enough.

Mankind comes from the dust, but lovely woman, unassisted, is trying to make herself over by using beauty clay.

Harry Thaw, of odorous memory, has been declared sane. Still, he may not harm if they keep him locked up.

The motorist is urged to practice thrift. We suggest the best motto would be, "Save a pedestrian a day."

What the Home Bank needed, apparently, was a few shock absorbers, instead of currency absorbers.

Most Englishmen celebrated St. George's Day in their usual way—by not wearing any decorations.

Seems to be assured, in quite a few cases, that "speedy trials" do not break any speed limits.

There's many a bank deposit slip between the grater and his savings account.

GOSSIPS FAIL TO HARM THE EBERTS

President's Family Plain, Honest People Who Make No Pretensions.

Berlin, April 28.—Revolution did not exterminate the old court gossips who were so busy in the days of the monarchy, and there are many of them who still follow their old calling and try to make life harder for the men and women of the new republic who are responsible for the social responsibilities which fall upon the members of the government. The monarchist, white-spained men of the old monarchist set and their equally unwhitened womenfolk, those of them who have not been able to land some sort of a job under the republic, organize themselves into mud throwing circles and assail President Ebert and his wife. But fortunately the Eberts are not vulnerable. They are plain, honest people who make no pretensions. As the mother of two sons who fell in the war, Frau Ebert typifies the war mother. Then she and her husband have the advice and assistance of State Secretary Meisner and his charming wife, who are in the Foreign Office under the old regime and are thoroughly familiar with the social practices of diplomats throughout the world.

For six years Frau Ebert has maintained her position as first lady of Germany with quiet distinction. Neither monarchists nor Liberals have been able to undermine the presidential family. The Eberts have never made any attempt to entertain lavishly. They always have lived in great simplicity and so they continue to live. They have neither the means nor the desire to take on any of the glitter which formerly characterized the palace on Wilhelmstrasse, which now serves as the presidential home, and the sober-minded German public apparently respects them very generally for the same example they set for a public which is going through bitter trials.

Easter Monday Ball.

The Easter Monday ball given at the Hotel de Ville was a very successful social affair. About one hundred and fifty were present. A programme of twenty dances were enjoyed with three extras. The prize given for the prettiest costume worn was won by Miss Adela Nelson, of North View. Refreshments were served at midnight and excellent music was furnished.

A notice dated London, 1924, read: "Several persons of quality were confronted by persons who rode in hackney carriages, wearing masks, etc. Complaint thereof being made to the Lord Justices, an order was made that no hackney carriage be permitted to go into Hyde Park." The ban, which extended more than 289 years, has been lifted and taxicabs will now be allowed to use the roads in Hyde Park for getting to and from other parts of London.

SUDDEN DEATHS BY HEART INHIBITION

Cases in Which Inhibition Took Place From Small Cause.

(Special Despatch, United Press to The Daily Gleaner.) London, April 28.—The sudden death of a 35-year-old lad while playing football has been ascribed to the stoppage of the heart's action owing to "reflex nerve impulses."

There have been cases in which an inhibition of the heart took place from a small cause. A woman had died from this cause after she had been trapped in a playful manner by a boy on what was called the "Adam's apple."

Several other cases have occurred recently of what is becoming to be known as sudden death by inhibition, that is to say by excessive stimulation of the vagus nerve. The condition is the same in kind as the familiar case of fainting, and has been under the stream of fright or old emotion.

Inhibition explains the tragedy of a powerful young man of 21 who was knocked out by a blow on the side of his neck and fell down dead.

In a still more recent case a man of 32 died while his wife was uttering on his neck, thus causing pressure on his neck.

There is little doubt that some of the tragedies in the boxing ring have been due to the same cause. A very similar case, explaining the death of a man who had a great fear of operations and died as the needle was being withdrawn through which to administer a local anesthetic before the operation was begun.

In yet another case a man buried for many hours under a landslide and able to converse with his would-be rescuers died as soon as the heavy plank compressing his chest was removed. In most of these cases the brain was noticed to be very large and the skull very thin.

SMITH'S DEPOSIT BOX WAS OPENED

Toronto, April 27.—Acting on a search warrant issued by the Government, a safety deposit box, standing in the name of Hon. Peter Smith, in a bank in Toronto, has been opened, and it is alleged that trace of bonds by way of coupons and securities themselves to the extent of \$100,000 have been found, the Telegram said on Saturday. It was not stated where the box was or what was discovered in it.

The newspaper says: "Fresh for information this morning, Colonel Price stated that a deposit box leased under Mr. Smith's name had been opened. The Treasury, in most of these cases the box was or what was discovered in it."

NEW WALL PAPERS

We have a large variety of very attractive designs at moderate prices. Come in and we will be pleased to show you our sample books. Lots of odd borders at reduced prices.

G. W. HALL

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WORTHLESS CHEQUES PASSED BY WOMAN

Cashed at St. John Stores and Woman Later Arrested at St. Stephen.

St. John, N. B., April 28.—A young woman, rather attractively attired, and with the appearance of being between 23 and 25 years of age, arrived in the city on Thursday afternoon last, on the express train about 6.30 o'clock, presumably from Moncton. She was accompanied by a young man, and they registered at an up-town hotel as Anna Kipping, and J. P. Clark, and as such having from Truro, N. S. They were assigned to rooms and checked out on Friday afternoon.

During their short stay in the city, the young woman is alleged to have worked quickly and was successful in cashing two checks alleged to be worthless. One of the checks amounting to \$60 was cashed in a King street store and another for \$49 was passed in a Charlotte street establishment.

Chief of Police Smith sent telegrams to different parts of the province giving a description of the man and woman, with instructions if they were located to hold the woman especially.

When the C. P. R. Shore Line train from West St. John arrived in St. Stephen on Saturday afternoon Chief of Police Hill was on hand and had no trouble in identifying the woman and her companion. He immediately took the woman into custody and locked her up, but did not arrest the man.

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