

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1926

FINANCE SAID TO BE PROBLEM IN SINGAPORE

Importance of British Base Stressed in London Letter

AUSTRALIA MAY BE CALLED ON TO HELP

Government of India Also—News Topics in Metropolis of Empire

(Correspondence of Times-Star.)

LONDON, Sept. 29.—The difficulties in the Far East opened up the question of the importance of the Singapore base. The problem today, I am told, is not so much one of expediency as of finance. But the vital importance of the base to India and Australia is unquestioned. Will India and Australia, therefore, be asked to share the cost? I learn that such a viewpoint will be urged by the treasury, but help is more likely to be tendered in kind rather than in cash. The Indian argument will be that they will contribute their share by guaranteeing the post with a brigade of native infantry, a point which I understand the military authorities in India are prepared to concede. The Australian government, which realizes that a strong base at Singapore means that their flank is protected, will be able to contribute a quota to the naval defence, and it is not improbable that the question of artillery defence will likewise be relegated to Australian care.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE

Considering the important part played by the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, in the development of the Empire's resources it is surprising to note how little is heard of it by the general public. Other institutions in London with less claim to notice appear to have the arts of publicity more at command, with the result that constant streams of visitors go to them. It is to be hoped that when the galleries of the Imperial Institute re-open on September 29, the new arrangements and improvements effected will be duly appreciated by large numbers of the public who will be able to see exhibits illustrating, in a manner that recalls Wembley, the resources of the British Empire. The attention of youthful visitors ought to be won by the well-lit dioramas and models of typical scenes in the Overseas Dominions now provided, and which are of real educational value.

OTHER ATTRACTIVE FEATURES

In another gallery exhibitions of the work of the British School of Roman sculpture and architecture will be held, as well as a series of lectures on the work in these same branches of art from all parts of the Empire. The mention of these features will show that the Imperial Institute is really an attractive place for visitors from all parts. Apart from its exhibits, the Empire resources, the Institute has other important features. In its intelligence section inquirers can obtain all available information as to the Empire's raw materials, and there is an investigations section in which raw

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MACDONALD'S NEW COURAGE

His friends say that Ramsay MacDonald has developed new courage as the result of recent events and that he will now stand up to the extremists as he has never done before. Hitherto, he has been accused of condemning them in private and obeying their orders in public. Now it seems he is going to say to them "Who are you?" He will fight hard—and here he will have Mr. Snowden with him—in resisting the resolution that would prevent the Labor Party taking office with the support of any other party. He will not dispute Liberal support any more than the Liberals dispute Labor support before the war.

IRISH RESIDENCE SOLD.

The Duke of Manchester has disposed of the old family residence in Northern Ireland, the famous Tandragee Castle. The historic seat has about

170 rooms, and contains gorgeous Turkish baths, to enter which, one passes through real marble halls. The sum of \$30,000 was spent on the erection of the baths. The Dukes of Manchester have always shown keen artistic leanings, and the art objects at the larger family seats of the Mountagues at Kimbolton Castle, St. Neots, Huntingdon, and Brampton Park are of the choicest, including pictures by Reynolds, Rubens, Titian, Holbein, Van Dyck, Lawrence, and other old masters. Like his mother, Consuelo (a famous political hostess in the days of Disraeli and Gladstone), the present duke's wife came from America—Miss Helena Zimmerman, a daughter of one of the wealthiest men in the United States.

AUTHOR OF 100 PLAYS

Henry Arthur Jones has been the recipient of many numerous messages of congratulation from all parts of his 76th year. It is only a few weeks ago that the famous dramatist, who has over 100 plays to his credit, underwent an operation, and that of serious character that it was not expected he would recover. Happily, he has had a wonderful and rapid recovery, and is full of ideas of more work for the stage. It is 50 years since his first plays were produced, and these still make an appeal by their admirable construction. "The Silver King" was produced in the early 80's, and was the forerunner of a large number of fine pieces that met with creditable success both here and in America.

THAMES LIGHTERMAN

One of the interesting little things that have emerged from the evidence before the commission on the Thames bridges is that the lightermen on the river considered the shooting of Waterloo bridge the most difficult operation in the course of their craft. Lord Crawford seems to think that the lightermen's trade is an obsolete one, but that is surely a hard thing to say. The lightermen are among the greatest aids to the picturesque of the Thames at London, and the craft which the sturdy fellows who manage them belong to is so ancient and honorable that it would be a thousand pities to lose it. Few people probably read the story of the lightermen's work, though most readers have at all events heard of Peter Simple and Midshipman Easy. One of the most delightful of Marryat's stories is "Jacob

Faithful," which is entirely concerned with Thames lightermen and their life. It will be of no avail to turn to it, for that was not in existence at the period of the story. But there is plenty about life on the river, its humors and its perils. If a Marryat revival ever comes a good deal will be heard of Jacob Faithful.

THAMES EMBANKMENT

Not only was Waterloo Bridge not there in Jacob Faithful's day, but the Thames embankment also had not come into being. It came, in a manner of speaking by accident, and those who wonder why the south bank of the river has not a similar embankment may find some illumination in the story. Briefly, a new main drain was decided for North London, and it was decided to run it alongside the river. The foreshore was largely utilized and the embankment built, which carried the splendid roadway we know today. It stands as a permanent monument to the engineering skill and artistic taste of Sir Joseph Bazalgette, a famous engineer. His greatest piece of luck one supposes was in that the drain was needed on the northern shore, the outside curve of the river and consequently the bank with the largest area of foreshore.

STAGE PAGEANTRY

The Prime Minister was one of the joyous audience this week at the Princes Theatre where "The Mikado" in his new dress was rapturously greeted. Robert Charles Rickards, A. R. A., by inventing two new scenes and re-dressing the ever-popular characters, has given unity of style to the performance, and the delightful color effects with which he has endowed it are a decorative triumph. The welcome accorded to the artist in the gorgeous array showed how well the experiment succeeded, and old players were quite as enthusiastic as ever they were in their earlier experiences of Gilbert and Sullivan opera. The favorites are hailed with delight. Henry Lytton is still the leading figure, and created much amusement by introducing in his pantomimic references to eminent statesmen, one who smokes a pipe—a point enjoyed by Mr. Rickards—and including the "searching motorist" in his catalogue of people who will not be missed. Doubtless a new fashion will be set in women's hats by the revived "Mikado," and the

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12 oz Bottle Marmalade 20c

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