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Sir Charles Dalton, President. J. R. Burnett, Editor and Publisher. D. K. Currie, Associate Editor.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1922

GREAT IS DIANA

It is early in the day to pronounce the present cabinet the strongest and best cabinet since Confederation. Yet some of our Liberal contemporaries in their jubilation have given this as their opinion. The grounds upon which the opinion is based are not set forth, not even hinted at. Only a comparatively few of the members are known in public life and even these had not earned the distinction of being called greatest among their fellows. The Hon. W. S. Fielding is probably the best known among them and one of Canada's greatest burdens today is the outcome of an act of unpardonable folly on his part during his former incumbency; we refer to the Railway Problem. Sir Lomer Gouin has done much for Quebec but whether the Quebec politician shall become a Canadian statesman. Whether he shall see beyond the bounds of his own province, is yet to be demonstrated. The Hon Mr MacKenzie King himself has much to undo as well as to do before the people of Canada can forget that up to the time of his election he was an opportunist and anything but a statesman.

It is quite possible that the whole cabinet may rise to the great opportunities before it; quite possible that it may yet become what its enthusiastic followers already believe it to be, but it is too soon to place the laurel wreath of victory upon its brow; the battles are yet to be fought and won. If these are fought manfully, honourably, with a view to the welfare of the whole Dominion and not of any province; with a view to benefitting the whole people and not a class, we shall cheerfully unite with our Liberal contemporaries in ascribing such praise and glory as may be due but, for the present, we withhold our predictions, at the same time admitting our doubts.

That Canada needs wise guidance at this juncture in its history all will admit. We have come through the most strenuous period in the history of our country; we were engaged in a defensive struggle to the winning of which we had pledged "the last man and the last dollar" and we won out; not without serious loss, not without the overturning of practically all our institutions, commercial and industrial.

We have begun to rebuild these and the work of rebuilding was fairly begun when the present cabinet took charge. The work is before them. In the manner of their carrying on the work they will earn praise or blame. In the meantime, while they have yet to earn their spurs, it is as nauseating as it is vulgar to hail them as the greatest cabinet in the history of Canada. Let time make this pronouncement.

BEGIN RIGHT

It is customary at the beginning of the new year to make good resolutions and to map out a promising course for the days to come. It is customary also, unfortunately to forget the good resolutions and to choose the path of least resistance.

In mapping out our course for the new year, or indeed for our future generally, there are two main principles to be taken into account, namely how our conduct will affect ourselves and how it will affect our neighbors.

Most of us are guided very largely by the first; as good citizens the second consideration should carry equal weight and it is to be regretted that it does not in too many cases. For example—an example too often in evidence after the snowfall of last Friday and the consequent heavy drifts the sidewalks were cleaned off throughout the city with commendable promptness—with some exceptions. The exceptions remained all day Sunday and until the drift on Monday and yesterday rendered them more difficult than before. There was no excuse for this. Saturday was an ideal day; there were dozens of men with shovels looking for a job and ready to work but those few exceptions remained to the great inconvenience of pedestrians and to the disgrace of those whose duty as good citizens was to have them cleaned up.

The police are usually prompt to warn those whose sidewalks are usually cleaned off if they happen to be a little late occasionally; what about those who never attend to this duty?

This is a perennial complaint: there are the same offenders year after year. Either the by-law demanding the cleaning off of the sidewalks should be impartially enforced or repealed.

THE "OLD GUARD" WINS.

Mr. MacKenzie King, trying to begin his reign by cleaving to a better Liberalism, has encountered his first defeat. His intentions, quite clearly, were good, but, as was once said of a certain statesman, he "meant well but feebly," and has succumbed to more determined men. With Mr. Crerar and the Progressives allied with Liberalism, the party would have been strong. Mr. King, assured of ample support, and freed of obscurantist control, would have embarked his career under favorable skies; his course would have been clear.

But Mr. King forgot that Mr. Crerar is a leader who really does not lead. He forgot Mr. Henry Wise Wood, the "Rasputin" of the party, the power behind the Progressive throne. Mr. Crerar, at Mr. Wood's dictation, had denounced the "old parties." Himself a Liberal of the Liberals he had played to Wood's tune. He had denounced secret campaign funds, the corruption of both Liberals and Conservatives, had invited his followers to "come to the uplands where the air is pure and sweet". And so when, with the election over, he invited the same followers to go with him to the lowlands where the air was impure and vile, there was schism and bewilderment and doubt. The West, motived by Mr. Wood, protested; Mr. Crerar bowed to the storm, and Mr. King, with the Progressives spurning his wooing, and Quebec watchful and sullen dropped between two stools.

It was the "Old Guard's" move, and they moved decisively. Sir Lomer Gouin came to Ottawa; there was a talk to Mr. King, explanations, withdrawals, repentance, and the shifting of the centre of gravity to the city of Montreal. Today Quebec Liberalism is on top. Mr. Crerar has returned to "the uplands," Mr. King, wiser and sadder, is choosing new colleagues, and Sir Lomer smiles and says—nothing.

Meanwhile one can almost hear Mr Charles Murphy, Mr. George P. Graham and Mr. Ned MacDonald repeat the old saying: "The Old Guard dies, but it never surrenders."—Ottawa Journal.

SCIENTISTS DISCUSS ONE LANGUAGE FOR ALL THE WORLD

TORONTO, Jan. 2.—Shall there be one language for all the world? Shall American, Asiatic, European and Polynesian all speak the one tongue in addition to their own national or native speech? That question came up for discussion this afternoon when the committee on auxiliary languages presented its report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The committee asked the association as a whole to place itself on record as being in favor of the standardization and introduction of an international auxiliary language.

Capt. Kidd As A Pirate Hunter

On the black list of pirates there is no rightful place for Capt. Kidd. But the truth about him gets as shabby a welcome now as it did in 1701 when he swung at Execution Dock, for literature can hardly spare his hat and jaw, his boots and cutlass; and his high-placed employers could by no means spare his life. It is time, nevertheless, thinks Joseph B. Gilder, latter-day friend to the captain and—for years a student of his story, to separate history from myth. That daunting picture of Howard Pyle's shows the Capt. Kidd of fiction, not the upright Scottish skipper that Mr. Gilder and the records declare our hero was. So goes a fine figure from the pages of romance. "There is not a scrap of evidence to prove that he ever committed a single piratical act in his whole life," said his defender, who presented his case a little while ago before the Century Club. "It was a frame-up. Buried treasure? He never buried a cent's worth. That story was devised to amuse Summer tourists on Long Island.

Kidd's Partners.

"Once a man supposed to be well informed in history whispered to me darkly that he had heard that the partners of Capt. Kidd's enterprise when he sailed on the Adventure were people very well known. They were indeed. One was a member of the Royal family in fact, the King of England and among his other partners were the Lord Chancellor, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Secretary of State, the Governor of New York and Robert Livingston, founder of the American family of that name. His commission as a pirate hunter bore the Great Seal, of which the Lord Chancellor is the sole keeper, as every one knows. Now, these gentlemen were all of the Whig party, then in power. The Tories were keen on the hunt for a scandal to be used against them. The rest of the story, and its sad conclusion, follow from that fact. There had to be a scapegoat, and Kidd was the man.

His Services Prized

"His history is simple and honorable. His father was said to have been a Non-Conformist minister, who was put to the torture of the boot. Late in his career he ran a packet between New York and London, but in 1689, when William III. had become King, and there was hot fighting in the West Indies, he did good service on the English side against the French. There were troublous times in New York when he returned, a Lieutenant-Governor being in office pending the arrival of the new Governor sent out by the King, for the former Governor had fled. Jacob Leisler was the popular leader, but Capt. Kidd supported the aristocratic party; and he served the cause so well that in 1691 the Provincial Government rewarded him with a substantial gift. Moreover, he married a rich widow, and these two facts account for the only treasure that in all likelihood he ever possessed."

Pirate Hunting.

The expedition to the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and neighboring waters on which Captain Kidd sailed forth in the galley Adventure in 1696 had for its powerful backers the great folk mentioned, says Marion Storm in the New York Post. Nevertheless, it was miserably manned, for the carefully picked crew with which it started was taken off by a press gang and Kidd had to come to New York to drum up recruits. When he left this city Gov. Fletcher predicted that he would never be able to control for a long period the gang of ruffians that composed his crew, inasmuch as they were to get no pay except a share of the spoils.

"There were 160 men," said Mr. Gilder, "and they were to receive a quarter of the winnings, to be divided among them all! The King was to draw a tenth of the proceeds—a third more than Kidd's own share."

The Trial of Kidd.

"After long hardships Capt. Kidd returned to the West Indies on one of his prize vessels. "He was beguiled to come ashore at Boston although he knew that the false charges against him made that dangerous by his one-time friend, the Earl of Bellomont, now Governor of New York and the greater part of New England. Lord Bellomont speedily threw him, heavily ironed, into jail and passed the good word on to the anxious King and the Whig nobles, whose Tory rivals were in full cry on the scent of this scandal 'Royalty compromised by piracy!' For a year Capt. Kidd lay in prison in Boston, and then was taken over to Newgate Gaol, London, where at last he was brought to trial, as they called it, and convicted by piracy on five indictments and of murder also. He had no friend. There was nobody to whom his life was not an inconvenience. The trial was a tragicomedy. The sole damaging evidence consisted of the perjured stories of two men who had deserted him to go off with a self-confessed pirate in Madagascar, and who were promised their own lives for swearing away his, as he told them to their faces.

"So he was hanged as a murderer and a pirate. The rope around his neck broke the first time, and the Newgate chaplain, who had set his heart on getting a confession, was much elated at this new chance. But it was no use. Capt. Kidd had no sins to confess—except probably drinking and swearing."

Daily Selections for Guardian Readers

From the collection of the late Mr. W. S. Louson

FOR THE NEW YEAR

Begin the year with God, my friend;
Begin with Him the year;
Step boldly out in untried ways
With courage and good cheer.
He sees the way, He knows the path.
O'er mountain top or vale,
He'll lead thee with His own right hand
With Him thou canst not fail.
A glad new year, if here or there
This year to thee shall be.
So free from every anxious care,
If He but leadeth thee.

Mary Wingate

Others' View Points

Dresses and Dance Cards.

(New York Herald)

A London statistician asserts that a girl dressed in blue at a dance can fill her card twice over; in black and gold she will be without partners five dances; in yellow the dance will be "unsatisfactory" to her. A cowboy substituting as waiter in a plains railway station, offended at a traveller's choice of apple pie after hesitating between that and mince, demanded threateningly, "What's the matter with the mince?" Well, what's the matter with the dance card of a pretty girl dressed in white?

Polly and the Profiteer.

(Boston Transcript.)

The parrot had frequently heard the dealer quote his price to customers and had added the words to his vocabulary. One day a lady customer stopped in front of his cage and said: "I like the looks of this bird. What is your price for him?"

The dealer noticed the lady's rich apparel and he raised his price to match.

"Ten dollars, madam," he said.

"Five dollars, madam," croaked the parrot.

The lady looked at the proprietor, who had turned a deep red. "He certainly is a good talker," she said, "and he seems to have good sense. I am willing to take him at his own valuation. Do I get him?"

"You do," answered the man sadly.

About the Royal Wedding.

(Manchester Guardian.)

A friend at Court tells me that the wedding of the Princess Mary is most likely to be near the end of February. The King's dislike for winter weddings is given as one reason. The Chapel Royal, St. James', has now been ruled out of consideration for the ceremony, if only for the reason that it would not hold all the numerous relatives of the bridegroom. St. George's, Windsor, is still a possibility, but everyone expects the Abbey will be chosen.

Regarding the degree of state of the Princess after marriage, I am told that although it has been repeatedly stated that she will drop royal rank on marriage, the belief at Court is that she will retain it. In the case of the marriage of Princess Patricia to Captain Ramsay the lady has had to accommodate herself to the two degrees, taking royal rank at Court and her husband's rank in society. This was found to be unsatisfactory in practice. It is now thought likely that the Princess will retain her rank with as much simplicity as possible. She will probably have two ladies-in-waiting, but they will not be in residence and will only act when the Princess is at the palace.

Notes By The Way

(From The Examiner)

There are several points worthy of consideration in the attitude and conduct of the Progressive leaders and party during the recent negotiations with Premier King. They were urged and entreated by Mr. King to join him and his party in a political alliance. As in duty bound they heard what he had to say and laid it before their followers. After due consideration of the tempting offers made them the Progressives decided to decline the offered alliance and retain their political independence and freedom of action.

It may perhaps be said that this was the only consistent course open to them, and that to have joined in the alliance would have laid them open to the charge of having sold out their principles and their independence for power and pelf. But when public men do the right thing, as Messrs. Crerar and Drury undoubtedly did in this instance, it would be ungenerous indeed to charge them with improper motives. Fair-minded critics must commend their course in this matter.

The Liberal press generally has given out the impression that the attitude of the Progressive party toward the King Government will be that of a "benevolent neutrality." So far as we have been able to learn this statement is not authorized by anything that has been publicly spoken by any responsible Progressive leader. That they will not needlessly oppose or obstruct the Government with the object of overthrowing it is, however, entirely probable. Such a course might result in forcing upon the country another general election, which nobody wants. The real attitude of the Progressives is that of independence.

Mr. Crerar, as the leader of his party, seems to have borne his part in the negotiations with dignity and reserve. Mr. J. J. Morrison, secretary of the United Farmers of Ontario, has given to the Toronto Globe a statement that the Progressive leader will not accept the salary allotted to the leader of the Opposition. Nobody had supposed that he would accept it in any case, as such action would imply that the Progressive party were officially opposed to the Government, instead of independent. During the election campaign prominent Progressives expressed themselves in favor of abolishing the Opposition leader's salary of $10,000, which seemed to be a popular move.

It should be mentioned that Progressive hostility to paying the leaders of the Opposition is based on the fact that in the hitherto Liberal provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the leaders of the Oppositions are paid, in Alberta $2,500 in addition to $2,000 sessional indemnity, and in Saskatchewan $2,500 in addition to an indemnity of $1,800. It is also to be observed as a commentary upon Liberal economy (?) that the two solidly Liberal provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia are the only ones that retain Legislative Councils in addition to their elected Legislative Assemblies.

Quebec pays her 24 legislative councillors $2,000 each, while the Speaker draws $4,000 additional, and is supplied with gorgeous furnished apartments. Nova Scotia pays her 21 legislative councillors $1,500 each, and they are all Liberals but one, and holding office for life. The 43 elected members of the Legislative Assembly receive but $700 each. They are not quite all Liberals. There are 14 Labor members Farmers and Conservatives among them, and hence the indemnities must be modest in that branch of the legislature. No better or other explanation is at hand to explain the anomaly.

Premier King is as voluble and loquacious as Mr. Crerar is reticent and reserved. The Premier's angry and explosive outburst against Mr. Meighen over the Counselman resignation and the issue of the writ for Grenville was in the worst possible taste. To assail a fallen rival as he did with multiplied offensive epithets and spread these through the country on the wings of the press was as regrettable as it was new to the higher walks of political life. It is a common fault with Mr King to talk too much; but even he has seldom made such a lamentable exposure of the ungenerous spirit within him.

It is gratifying to find that the Toronto Globe does not share in Mr. King's anger and discourtesy. The chief Liberal organ apparently sees nothing unusual or improper in what Mr. Meighen has done. It notes that "Mr. King has protested against Mr. Meighen's action, but the retiring Premier has doubtless constitutional authorities." It cites the English practice in which a member of parliament desiring to vacate his seat quickly accepts the Chiltern Hundreds and adds: "The stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds sounds more romantic than a clerkship in the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment though in the present instance it amounts to the same thing." This mild rebuke should be taken to heart by the new Premier.

The furious drifting snow storm which blocked our railway and highways at the end of last week, was coincident with the formation of the King Government at Ottawa. It also served as a reminder of our snow and ice blockade in the days of Laurier and prosperity"—save the mark! Those were the days when no steamer crossed the Straits for a month and our railway was blocked for six weeks at a time while Liberal ministers sat in their cozy offices at Ottawa and admonished us to "get out and shovel snow!" Fortunately the "wicked Tories" got into power and gave us the car ferry and some broad-gauge engines and cars, so that the worst winter storm causes but a few hours' delay. With freedom of travel and exemption from official insult no one will sigh for a return of such prosperity as we enjoyed "under Laurier."

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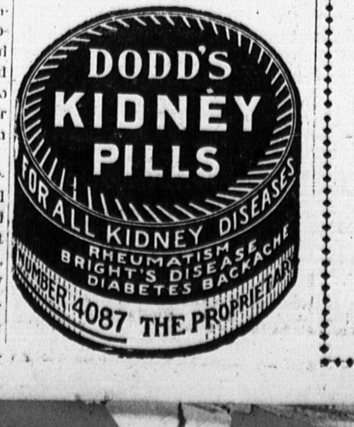

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