

## The Daily Mail

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### A "FATUOUS" NOTION

One solace vouchsafed to defeated men and parties is divine right of explaining "how it happened." Another is the measuring of majorities in order to show how narrow was the margin which accounted for the triumph of the victor. This method of extracting sunbeams from cucumbers seems to be an important source of comfort to Mr. Borden and his followers. Even our own Mr. O. S. Crockett was "fatuous enough" to take advantage of its solace when discussing the prospects of the party with some sympathisers in British Columbia recently. He adhered strictly to the tactics which have been followed by the Tory party regularly after every election since 1896 by attempting to show how small was the popular majority of the Liberal party and making elaborate calculations to prove how near they were to victory this time and how easy it will be by the swinging of a few votes to their side to win the next time.

Mr. Borden in some of the speeches of his recent tour in Nova Scotia has been calculating just the number of votes to be transferred from the Liberal to the Tory column in order to put the latter party into power. It is a simple and child-like task—on paper or by word of mouth, so much so that the wonder is that any reasonable man should think it worth while to undertake it.

Now, Manitoba presents an object lesson concerning the relation of narrow majorities to governmental stability. In 1899, Mr. Roblin's party polled 49.21 per cent. and his Liberal opponents 49.51 per cent. of the total vote polled, leaving .28 per cent. to be accounted for by an independent vote. Yet Mr. Roblin had a first-class majority at his back in parliament. Once in power, a party is quickly reinforced by most of the detached voters and by those who, true to a certain kind of human nature, always gravitate to the winning side. Yet in spite of all this addition to his party strength, Mr. Roblin's percentage of the entire vote has increased but little though he still holds nearly two to one of a majority in the House. In 1903, his party polled 50.59 per cent. of the total and elected 31 members out of 40. In 1907 it was 50.55 per cent. and in 1910 50.77 per cent., and all this time the Tory majority in the Legislature was maintained with little change. In other words, a change at any time during the past ten years of but slightly over one half of one per cent of the total vote would have given the Liberals a majority. This seems a narrow margin enough, yet the Tory press of Canada regard the Roblin administration as firmly entrenched in power and the local Liberals are not at all sanguine of its defeat in the near future. All of which goes to prove that in a system of representative government such as obtains in this country and in Britain, the attaching of critical importance to narrowness of popular majorities is not justified by the fact. The "adverse balance" may be small, but may be remarkably persistent for all that.

### THE REPRESENTATION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES

If the estimate of Canada's population recently issued by the Census Bureau is correct, there will be some notable changes in the Provincial representation at Ottawa after next year's census. The Maritime Provinces, for instance, stand to lose three or four members, Ontario to lose four

while the West will gain ten or more.

The reason for the reduction in Maritime representation is, of course, the increased population of Quebec. Quebec's representation, under the Constitution, remains stationary at 65, and the division of 65 into the population of Quebec after each census fixes that of representation for the rest of Canada. The unit in 1901 was 25,361. According to the census bureau's estimate, the present population of Quebec is 2,124,855, which makes the unit 32,689. Dividing this unit into the estimated population of the Maritime Provinces, 1,046,978 gives us a representation of 32 as compared with 35 at the present time.

In anticipation of some such eventuality, there has been a strong plea put up during the past few years against any diminution in the Maritime representation, based on the claim, undoubtedly correct, that it was the understanding at the time of Confederation that the representation allowed us at that day would not be reduced. However, there is nothing in the Constitution providing for this and, as the objection to any such constitutional change has been strong and vociferous in the other Provinces it is not likely that the Government will provide a remedy in this way.

With regard to this matter, however, The Halifax Echo thinks that we have a sufficient remedy in our own hands. Quality rather than quantity counts in Parliamentary membership as elsewhere. Heretofore in the Maritime Provinces, because of this individual strength, their representatives have carried away the councils of a nation out of all proportion to their numbers. Let the Maritime Provinces maintain the high standard they have set in this regard or heighten it, if possible, and we need have no fear of being obliterated by the domination of the West or any other section.

"Did Washington swear?" asks Harper's Weekly. The Halifax Echo thinks perhaps it might throw light on the question if it was known whether Martha's dresses hooked up the back or not.

A contemporary remarks that the recent advance in the price of prunes brings the cost of living problem hard home to the boarding house mistresses.

### C. P. R. STOCK AND JOHN BULL'S HOLDING

(New York Post)

The calculation that 65 per cent. of all the outstanding capital stock of the Canadian Pacific is held in Great Britain and only 10 per cent. by Canadian investors is probably accurate. It suggests the extent to which the Canadians have relied upon foreign capital to finance their expansion, and the small amount of capital they have been able to find for themselves. In the last few months the disinclination of the English investor to produce new capital as rapidly as it has been asked for has caused some anxiety in the Canadian money markets.

This disinclination affects not so much Canadian Pacific securities (if it affects them at all) as the output of miscellaneous Canadian securities, the recent supply of which on the English market has been enormous. Very few Canadian undertakings have the capacity of the Canadian Pacific Railway to make new capital at once and continuously productive. The inevitable number of inferior promotions has followed the good ones to Great Britain during the recent "boom in Canadians," and that is perhaps the whole trouble.

### ENGLISHMEN HELD IN GERMANY AS SPIES

Emden, Germany, Aug. 23.—A second Englishman in addition to one captured yesterday at Bordkum, was arrested to-day at the same place on suspicion that he also is a spy. He offered violent resistance to arrest.

It was reported that photographs had been taken of the fortifications at Bordkum, and of the new defence works on the Island of Wangeroog, in the North Sea, near the entrance to Jade Bay.

### PLEASURE STEAMER

New York, Aug. 25.—Two lives were lost early today when the excursion boat Majestic, returning to Newark, N. J., from Coney Island, ran down and sank a launch containing a party of merry-makers in Newark Bay. The work of rescue was made difficult by the fast running tide and darkness. Mary Ketps and David Sumes were drowned.

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### LOYD GEORGE'S LAND TAX PAPERS

London, Aug. 23.—The revenue office has sent out schedules for the valuation of property in accordance with Mr. Lloyd-George's land tax Bill, and according to the Tory papers, two million or more people are racking their brains in a vain effort to unravel the intricacies of the official demands.

Sympathy is particularly bespoken for the Duke of Devonshire, who is required, according to one of his land agents, to fill in no less than 20,000 forms, each containing fifty questions in regard to the various values of his estates. Taking four as an average number of words for each answer the total of 40,000,000 will have to be written, or the equivalent of forty average-sized novels.

The Bill contains but one-sixth of the total number of words required to satisfy the revenue officials. To complete this herculean task, only thirty days are allowed by the Government. The poor Duke will be kept busy if his numerous staff of land agents be unequal to the task.

### NEW PRINCIPAL FOR MACDONALD COLLEGE

Montreal, Aug. 24.—Dr. F. C. Harrison, it is reported, will soon be formally appointed to the principalship of Macdonald College, at Ste. Anne de Bellevue. The College has been without an actual head since the early part of last winter, when Principal Robertson resigned. Dr. Harrison has been acting principal.

While no definite confirmation could be obtained today of the appointment, it is quietly given out that the appointment has in reality been settled upon and the only formality lacking is official announcement of the fact which, it is said, is soon to be made.

### FUNERAL OF LATE PRESIDENT

Berlin, Aug. 25.—The funeral of the late president Pedro Montt of Chile, who dies suddenly at Bremen, Aug. 16th, was held here today at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Hedwig, in the centre of the city, near the palace of the Emperor. The entire diplomatic corps at Berlin and all the Chilean diplomatic representatives at the various European capitals were present.

Emperor William was represented by the governor of Berlin, General Kessel.

After the services the body was placed in a crypt of the church, where it will be kept until arrangements are made to take it to Chile for burial.

### PERSONAL

Mr. S. E. McKie, of Moncton, is at the Barker House.

Mr. Fred Glover, of Stanley, is registered at the Queen.

Dr. A. Sterling, of Stanley, is in the city.

Mr. W. T. Johnstone, of Ottawa, is at the Barker House.

Messrs. J. A. Calder, N. A. Edgecombe, W. A. Adams and C. H. Edgecombe drove to Stanley yesterday in an automobile and took in the picnic.

Dr. O. E. Morehouse, of Upper Kewick, was in the city today.

Mr. J. F. Gleeson of St. John is in the city.

Mr. James P. Sullivan and wife of St. Stephen are at the Barker House.

Mr. W. F. McGibbon of St. Stephen is in the city.

Mr. Horace VanWart, who has been attending Vermont Military Academy for the last few weeks, arrived home last night. He will take a short course at the military school for a lieutenants commission here, starting Sept. 1st.

Truro News: L. C. McNutt, Collector of Customs, Fredericton, is spending a week with friends in Truro and vicinity.

Mr. H. W. Lunney, of the reportorial staff of The Montreal Star, is at the Queen Hotel. Mr. Lunney was graduated in Arts by the U. N. B. in 1906 and is well known in the city.

### BIG FIRE IN MAINE DAMAGES \$150,000

Orono Maine, Aug. 24.—After having been in operation sixty years or more, the saw mill and box factory of James Walker & Co. at Basin Mills, a part of this town, were totally destroyed by fire late today. The loss was estimated at \$150,000 and it was fairly well covered by insurance, the amount not being known definitely.

The mill, which probably was the oldest of its kind and one of the largest in the state, was deserted except for the presence of the watchman, when the fire broke out, about 3.30 o'clock most of the 250 employees and their families being in Bangor in attendance at the annual Eastern Maine Fair.

It had been closed for the day that they might have an opportunity to attend the fair. Just how the blaze started never will be known, as the entire plant was burned to the ground. The watchman could not explain it. He had passed through the mill less than three minutes before the flames were discovered and every thing appeared as usual. Hardly had he left the building when the fire broke out, and spread with great rapidity. There were practically no means of fighting the fire although the Bangor fire department sent an engine and company as protection to surrounding property and the flames simply consumed the buildings which were of wooden construction, and died out. Four cars loaded with lumber were burned, but thanks to a favorable wind the piles of lumber stored in the yard, also the other buildings in the neighborhood escaped damage.

The plant was situated near the Maine Central railroad station, and between the station and the Penobscot river.

### QUEEN OF SPAIN FACTOR IN TROUBLE

Madrid, Aug. 23.—So bitter is the feeling at Court between the Clericals and Queen Victoria, to whom many Catholics lay the blame for the break with the Vatican, that several of the leading members of the Royal Household contemplate resigning when the crisis is formally recognized by the withdrawal of the Papal Nuncio.

This became known today, as the Queen, with King Alfonso, whose stand is opposed to that of the Clericals, is returning from England via Paris.

The Queen and her mother, Princess Henry of Battenburg, have been regarded with small favor by the Spanish aristocracy and their known bias toward the church of England has increased the strain.

### ANGLO-GERMAN

(Continued from page five.)

view to an understanding with England. The German nation would resist the attempt on the part of any foreign Power to dictate the extent of German naval armaments, but it is a very different thing when the greatest sea-power in the world extends a hand to us with a view to discovering ways and means of limiting armaments, or at least leaving them at a fixed point. The nation would accompany such an attempt with the liveliest good wishes.

Encouraged by this manifestation of good feeling, The Daily News has canvassed British newspapers. A few doubt the possibility of any working agreement, but The Daily Mail alone disapproves of making the attempt. The proposal will certainly be opposed by the respective Admiralties, by the firms which are making handsome profits from naval construction, and by a few war-mongering Imperialists, but with public opinion on both sides strongly supporting it, there should be little difficulty in so deciding the matter as to ensure our adequate supremacy, which is all we seek. The present suicidal rate of expenditure cannot be checked too soon.

Rev. A. Smithers, of Gagetown, is in the city.

Aug. 22, 1910

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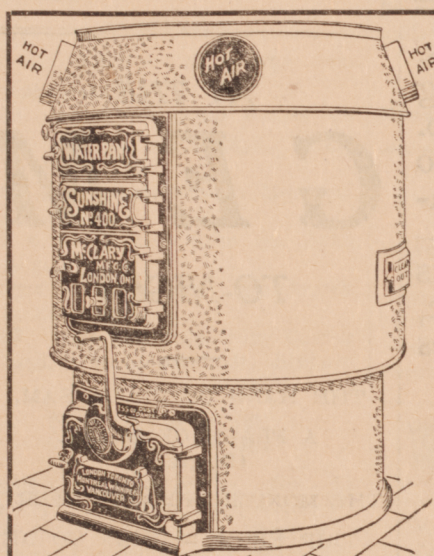
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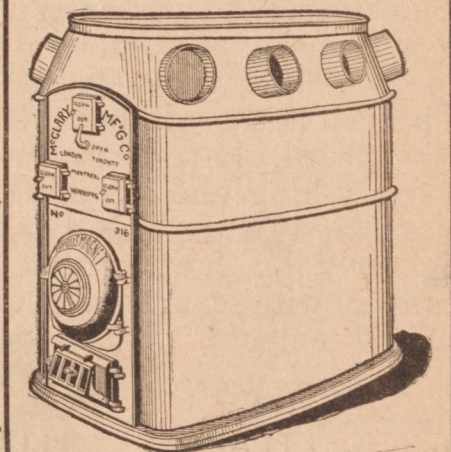
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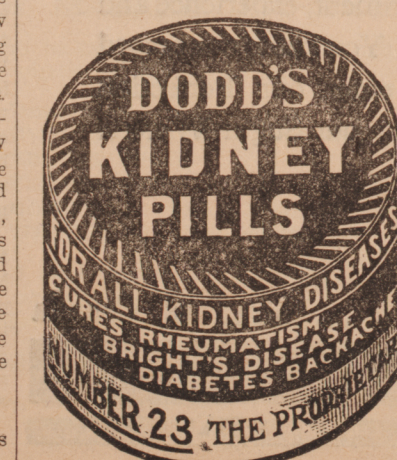
### AUCTION SALE

There will be an auction sale of household furniture at the residence of Dr. J. W. Bridges, Queen Street, on Friday evening, commencing at seven o'clock. A splendid chance for bargains.

### BRITAIN TO BUILD MOTOR BATTLESHIP

Portsmouth, Aug. 23.—The British Admiralty has decided to build a motor driven battleship which will render the Dreadnoughts obsolete, according to an announcement made today.

The mightiest vessels in the world today will be unable to cope with the new design in speed or fighting power, according to tentative plans laid out. Experiments with motor driven boats have already been made.



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