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BIG WARS CAUSED BY MINOR AFFAIRS

Events, Trifling in Themselves, Have Sent Nations Armed Against Nations in Conflict

A Mexican's refusal to fire a salute of twenty-one guns seems an absurd trifle to sacrifice human life for, but that affair provided but another illustration of the manner in which little sparks sometimes bring about big international blazes. The war in which Great Britain lost the United States, for example, began because the citizens of Boston emptied a number of tea chests into Boston harbor. The objection to having their tea taxed to the benefit of England, and showed their resentment by tipping it into the sea. The result was that hostilities began at once.

And it was really because a few people lost their heads in the excitement of the moment that South Carolina began her war between North and South in the sixties. While negotiations regarding the slavery question were in progress the North sent a ship to reinforce the garrison at Fort Sumter. The South Carolina secessionists saw the ship arriving and got into a fever of excitement. They thought it was a sign that hostilities had begun, with the consequence that they fired at the ship, bombarded the garrison, and took all the men in the fort prisoners, for the garrison was quite unprepared. It was this little affair which which precipitated matters, set the North ablaze, and resulted in the war which cost the States \$10,000,000,000 and the lives of 600,000 men.

Religion and War

The question of the guardianship of the Holy Sepulchre really led to disastrous Crimean War. France had it; Russia wanted it; and Great Britain sent a messenger to ask Russia to withdraw. But the messenger was ultimately informed that the Russian Emperor had nothing to reply and a few days later an enormous crowd gathered in front of the Royal Exchange in London to hear war declared.

It was quite a trifling affair which led to the conflict between Russia and Turkey in 1877, a war which was really originated by the blow of a blacksmith's hammer. In the seventies the province of Bosnia and Herzegovina, long under Turkish rule but now under the administration of Austria-Hungary, was groaning under the excessive taxation levied by the Turks. In some parts of the province all persons over the age of sixteen had to pay a poll tax.

One day a collector went to a small mountain village to collect the tax when a dispute arose between him and the village blacksmith concerning the age of the latter's daughter. The blacksmith insisted that she was a minor, and when the tax-collector made some insulting remark about her the smith brained him with his hammer. The blow of that hammer was heard in every Court in Europe for the smith fled to the mountains taking his daughter with him, gathered a band of malecontents, and began an insurrection which set the whole province in a blaze. The war spread to Serbia, and ultimately Russia became involved.

"Jenkins's Ear"

An extraordinary affair, which descended in history as that of "Jenkins's ear," led to the war between Britain and Spain in 1739. At the time the Spaniards, encouraged by a secret compact with France, began to exercise with great severity their right to search English vessels on the high seas. In 1731 an English merchant vessel was boarded by the Spaniards and the captain, James Robert Jenkins, was cruelly used. After his release Captain Jenkins made his way to England, where the story of his torture by the Spaniards and the tearing off of one or both of his ears, aroused general anger. Seven years later he was called before Parliament, and, standing at the Bar of the House, retold his narrative to the assembled members. His story caused a thrill of indignation to run through England and war ensued.—THE B.N.T.

What Becomes of Smoke?

Smoke is composed of gases and of little particles of fuel which are carried up the chimney by suction. Knowing this, the ultimate end of smoke may be readily explained. The fuel particles fall to the ground of their own weight when they get beyond the drawing power of the chimney and out of the current of the heated air formed in the chimney flue.

There is a lot of carbonic acid gas in smoke which mixes with the air and eventually becomes food for plants. Some other gases which are not entirely consumed when they come from the chimney, are burned by the air still more until they, too, become carbonic acid gas.

ACCIDENTS NEVER COME SINGLY TO TORY GOVERNMENTS

Three Have Occurred Within a Year and are Well Distributed as Danger Signs—Liberals Now in Control in Five Provinces

(Special Correspondence.)

Ottawa, May 27—It never rains but it pours. Accidents never come singly. Tick, tack toe—three in a row. Three out, all out. These and other wistful saws are passing from mouth to mouth as the result of the Roblin government's downfall.

The three accidents the soothsayers have in mind have all happened to the Conservative party within a year and are pretty well distributed as danger signs. First, Premier Flemming of New Brunswick, was investigated and unseated; next Sir Richard McBride was sandbagged by his chief friend and adviser, Attorney General Bowser; now Sir Rodmond Roblin yields to fate and a graft enquiry that must be dodged if it can't be headed off.

The blight, as far as its course can be traced by public events, seems to elect equally the Maritime Provinces, the middle West and British Columbia. It extends from ocean to ocean, seizing on those spots which will give it oom to spread to the most advantage. It is being recalled by persons skilled in reading the writing on the wall that the Conservative popular majority in 1911 was something less than thirty-two thousand and that very little more of this sort of thing will Belshazzar—the word is used as a verb—the Borden government for good.

As matters stand the Liberals control five provincial governments out of nine and are reaching for number six. The Yukon Territorial Council is Conservative at present but as the Yukon never aims to be out in the cold any more than its position in the Arctic Circles warrants there is little doubt it would be Liberal if public opinion in the larger part of Canada slanted that way. No one blames the Yukon for wanting to be on the sunny side of politics if only to offset the hard winters. At all events things are getting no better fast and that is one reason why the Borden government looks forward to an election in September, unless otherwise detained.

McBRIDE'S TROUBLES.

The catastrophe in New Brunswick has seen print and need not be explained again now, but Sir Richard McBride's misfortunes in British Columbia are still wrapped in a certain amount of mystery. It seems that Sir Richard was challenged to a test of strength by his grand vizier Bowser. When the caucus showed twenty-

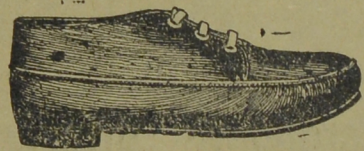
one to twenty-one in the matter of an electric which the young premier had set his heart on, Sir Richard realized that his kingdom had been divided, called for his horse, metaphorically speaking, and rode away to London to see his friend and exemplar, Winston Churchill, who once advertised him as having "the seal of high destiny on his brow." Humor has it that Bowser removed the seal and that Sir Richard would be quite satisfied now to become agent general for British Columbia in London with a fair salary and opportunities to indulge his taste for the best English society.

In spite of reports to the contrary, Sir Richard is not a rich man. All he got out of politics was a good living. He is the Immortal Boy, takes no thought of the morrow, spends his own money that way and adopts the same policy toward crown lands and railway subsidies. It's the Irish generosity in him that makes him as free with your money as he is with his own—that and a faith in human nature which leads him to accept the word of land-grabbers and subsidy bogs as being good as their bonds, which isn't putting too high a value on it at that. At any rate, the rare old, fair old golden days of dream surpluses with a backing of promissory notes are pretty well over in British Columbia and Sir Richard is looking around for another job. Sir Richard is no hand at financing a deficit. Bowser makes a better fist of it. Being originally a Bluenose he can face a blue outlook better than Sir Richard, who is a typical son of the Pacific Slope. Still, he was the bright little morning glory while he lasted.

COPIED SIR WILFRID.

Externally Sir Richard modelled himself on Sir Wilfrid Laurier, copying his hair and his clothes and other outward and visible signs but when it came to copying his mind and his statesmanship Sir Richard couldn't come up to the specifications. However, he once spent twenty-five thousand dollars welcoming Sir Wilfrid to British Columbia's midst, said sum being half admiration and half politics. Sir Richard was looking toward Ottawa at that time, certain advanced thinkers in the Conservative party, including Rufus Pope, subsequently senator, having groomed (Continued on page three.)

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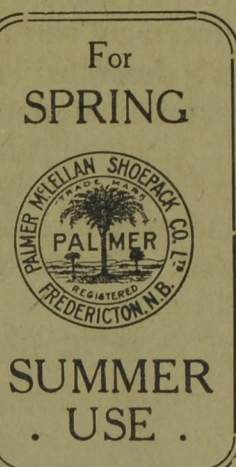
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