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Editor

DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1902.

"AGIN THE GOVERNMENT."

The phrase "His Majesty's loyal Opposition" embodies one of the most valuable ideas in the British constitutional system, says an Exchange. It stands for organized resistance not to law and order, but to power, and is a safety-valve for a part of human nature that ought never to be suppressed—the spirit of resistance, of defiance, of independence. The Irishman who, on landing in New York, and asked about his politics, said that he was agin the Government," represented a sentiment that we cannot afford to lose. It is entirely different from the spirit of the Anarchist, that is, of the murderer kind. The Anarchist of that class represents the idea of despair. He has given up hope of attaining his end by peaceful means. He has also an abnormally high opinion of the importance of persons in authority—he is a sort of inverted Cavalier.

The constitutional oppositionist is possessed by no such delusion. He knows that the resort to violence is not only criminal but absurd, as it is sure to be followed by a tightening of the bonds of law and a restriction of liberty. His aim is to keep within due bounds what Whitman calls the never-ending audacity of elected persons. He stands in no superstitious awe of persons in authority, neither does he regard them as enemies. He simply maintains a steady, good-humored resistance to all attempts to enlarge authority, and a steady insistence on the rights of the individual. This is one of the benefits of the party system, as rightly interpreted and worked. There should always be an organized Opposition, no matter how good a Government may be—a body of men on whose support a Government cannot count, and who will steadily maintain a critical instead of an admiring attitude.

BRITISH REMOUNTS.

The scandal respecting the remount department of the British Army, says the New York Times, is the sorest and most mortifying to patriotic Britons of any of the shortcomings developed by the war in South Africa. Ever since the Crimean war it has been plain that the business methods of the British civilian by no means extended to the British staff officer. But, in the Sudan and in the Transvaal, Lord Kitchener has done very much to redeem the reputation in this respect of the British Army, and the efficiency of the departments of transport and supply became, before the close of the war, highly creditable. What makes this scandal of the remounts so grievous is that it touches not only the competency but the honor of British officers. Observers of the British officer have frequently had occasion to deny that he was an officer, properly so called, but they have very seldom had occasion to deny that he was a gentleman. When a Major in the British Army is arraigned on a charge of fraud, and there is excellent reason for believing that there are other officers quite as guilty as he, the revelation may well be viewed with pain and disgust by the British public.

Of course, there is but one thing for the British Army authorities to do, and that is to make the investigation thorough and searching. There is no reason to suspect Mr. Brodrick of any luke-warmness or want of zeal in the matter. It has already been made plain that many purchasing officers paid extravagant prices for worthless animals, in circumstances which indicated that the government agents were corrupt men or extraordinary

fools. No army can afford to harbor such men among its commissioned officers, and we believe that the honor of the British service is in this respect as high as that of any other in the world. But it can be kept so only by vigorously and ruthlessly purging it of any scoundrels who may have managed to get commissions in it. Happily there is no reason to believe that these are many in number, nor that there is any desire on the part of their fellow-officers to screen them. In any case, the arraignment on a charge of fraud of an officer supposed to have "position" and "influence" is an excellent beginning.

The London, Eng., Morning Post has an account of the great coronation bazaar at the Botanical Gardens, which, it says, was the only great social event which was carried out as originally intended. It says: "Her Majesty yesterday afternoon performed her first inauguration ceremony since the King's accession. Thanks to her gracious presence and that of other members of the royal family, the Imperial Coronation Bazaar proved one of the most brilliant social functions of the season. There were nearly seven thousand persons present, including the representatives of the different colonies and foreign countries, besides many members of European royal families and the American Ambassadors."

C. Hayford of Aroostock recently cut and housed 130 tons of hay in eight days at an expense of 37 cents per ton. This hay is worth on the farm \$1,300, say \$1,250 more than the cost of harvesting. We will suppose that the crop was the product of 50 acres of land, which cost for taxes and fences \$50. Then Mr. Hayford got \$1,200 net from his fifty acres or the interest at six per cent on \$20,000, which would make his land a good investment at \$400 an acre. Allowing that he pays \$6 per acre per year for fertilizers his land is still good property and \$300 per acre.

Mr. G. E. Gosnell, writing to the Victoria, B. C., Colonist from London, says the speech of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the Dominion Day dinner was "a model of diction, easy grace and ornate eloquence." At the the Constitutional Club banquet "many of the speakers tired the audience or were only indifferently or politely listened to, but as soon as the Canadian Premier rose, and his mellifluous tones were audible, every eye was turned and every ear strained towards him. Not a word was lost."

The gems of her Majesty's crown to the number of 3,688, are to be sold, and the jewellers who supplied them will have a handsome profit in their enhanced value. Each stone will be sold with a certificate as to the function it has served. The increased value of these gems may be an interesting problem for students of economics.

Predictions as to the exhaustion of the Klondike placers do not take into account the possibilities of new discoveries. There may be a century of mining in store for the Yukon and its tributaries.

Dr. R. H. McGrath,

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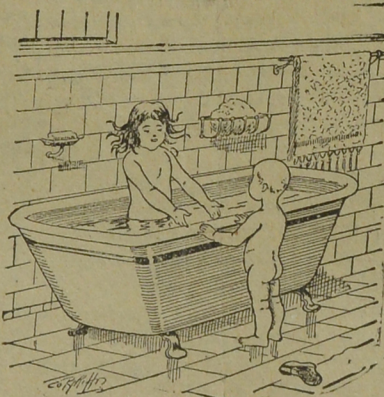
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