

## BRITISH ELECTORAL SYSTEM MAKES FOR SPEEDY ACTION

How Candidates Are Chosen—Selection of Prime Minister—Ministry Represents the Party.

London, Nov. 8.—The precipitation of a general election in Great Britain by the collapse of the Coalition Government due to withdrawal of Conservatives in accordance with the vote taken by parliamentary members of the party at the Carlton Club meeting on Oct. 19, brings the whole British political system into view for the interested inspection of all peoples, particularly Americans, to whom democracy is so much the breath of life and whose institutions, in Yankee vernacular, are "just the same only different."

Democracy, while universal almost to the point of being a fetish today, is not an invention of the twentieth century, as evidenced by the word itself, which is of ancient origin. In more modern times the institutions have had a steady growth in England from the time of Magna Charta. And yet it was America which gave democracy its present world recognition with the Declaration of Independence and the written Constitution.

These documents taken together are intended not only to present a complete declaration of political ideals such as self-government and equality of political opportunity, but also to furnish a comprehensive scheme of national government organization. Functions, powers, and terms of office of officeholders are expressly stated and precisely limited. The whole plan consists of a series of checks and balances. The Executive and Legislative departments may check and balance each other. The same is to some extent true between the two arms of the Legislative Department, the Senate and House of Representatives. And the Judiciary may check both, and so on.

### How Candidates Are Elected

Candidates are elected to office for better or worse for a term of invariable length. Due to the varying lengths of terms of officeholders, a change in the political complexion of the country sometimes results in checks and balances to the point of deadlock. For instance, there may be a Republican Senate and a Democratic House of Representatives, or a Democratic President and a Congress which is Republican in both houses. This was the condition which confronted President Wilson from November, 1918, until Mar. 4, 1921.

Such a condition could not obtain in England, where the Cabinet or government always represents the party or the political combination which can command a majority in Parliament. The moment it ceases to represent a dependable majority, that moment it ceases to be the Government.

A President of the United States may be re-elected, and here is the exception to general American procedure—there is nothing in the written Constitution to prevent him being re-elected indefinitely if he could receive enough votes. However, George Washington, the first President, re-elected a third term and set a precedent which has served as unwritten law ever since. In the observance of this tradition, undeclared by written Constitution, the Americans follow a course which is the basis of the English system. Ask an Englishman for a copy of his Constitution and he will refer you to Magna Charta. As a matter of fact, the British Constitution is a complete system of government from unwritten law, which has been established by precedent and is maintained by deferential adherence to tradition.

As Democratic as America  
The British system, now to be witnessed in action at a time of unprecedented tension and importance, while it is just as democratic as the American—some people say more so—proceeds by different methods. There is at the head of the Government a hereditary ruler, the King. But as time has passed and the democratic idea has grown, the British sovereigns, who frequently have been the most democratic individuals in the Empire, have yielded to the logic of ideas and the popular will, with the result that the King of England is no longer a ruler in a political sense. True, he opens and dissolves Parliament and nominally appoints the Prime Minister, but in accordance with tradition and precedent he invariably performs that function in a way to fulfill the wishes of the majority of Parliament or the declared wishes of the electorate. The main underlying idea of the British system is that a Government must be in power must at all times have a majority in order, first, that it should represent the wishes and opinions of the electorate as declared at the last election; and secondly, so that it may have the power to do business. Thus the duration of a Government depends upon its ability to command a following. There can therefore be no such thing as a deadlock. The Government must be able to carry on policy or else it must retire. And this is what has now happened in England.

The King has summoned the leader of the party with the largest number of seats in Parliament and has made him Prime Minister. This Prime Minister has appointed the rest of the Cabinet, which appointment the King has confirmed. This Ministry is now referred to as "the Government." There is some question as to whether this Government would, however, have a majority in the Parliament elected on the Coalition platform in 1918, and so an "appeal to the country" is considered necessary. It is in that election the Conservatives have a majority, Mr. Law will undoubtedly continue to be Prime Minister. If the Coalition Liberals have a majority, Mr. Lloyd George will again become Prime Minister. In the case of a Labor majority, some member of the Labor Party would be Premier.

Largest Vote But Not Majority  
In case, as some observers anticipate, the Conservatives have the largest vote but not a majority, then some sort of working arrangement between Conservatives and Liberals would have to be drawn up to permit of the formation of a Government under the British system. The "menace of Socialism," as seen in the proposals of the Labor Party, has a tendency to drive these groups together but there is much to be overcome in making any close combination because of opposi-

tion of the Conservative "rank and file" to Mr. Lloyd George, based upon the conviction that wartime allies have been unnecessarily irritated and that the foundations of empire have been undermined by hazardous experiments in Ireland, India, and Egypt. Parliament has been formally dissolved. The election is now set for Nov. 15. American observers, accustomed to anticipate their elections for the months and years intervening between their known regular occurrences are astounded at the apparent lack of time for preparation. How can the candidates get around and deliver their messages to their constituents?

The answer is that although the date of the election has only just been established, its imminence has been known for a long time. It is upon the country as a result of a sudden unforeseen crisis, but as a result of the steady and obviously unmistakable growth of dissatisfaction with the Coalition Government. To a large extent, therefore, the issues are already defined. Literature is either printed or tentatively drafted so as to be ready for prompt printing. The local chairmen have for a long time been in touch with the "rank and file" of their parties, and benches of all parties have been ready for the word "go," which was given when the Coalition fell and the Conservatives were put in power.

And now the campaign is on. Meetings are in full swing, and speeches are being delivered all over the country simultaneously. Prominent individuals are coming out in support of this party or that candidate. National leaders themselves are confronting each other in doubtful districts like Glasgow, where Bonar Law, the new Prime Minister, and Sir Robert Horne, formerly Chancellor of the Exchequer, may have somewhat of a contest to determine whether Glasgow Conservatives will declare in favor of independent political action or for the Coalition. There are nearly 30 women candidates, including, of course, Lady Astor.

### DUKE OF ROTHESAY CHAPTER I. O. D. E.

Most interesting events filled the Chapter of the I. O. D. E. called the Duke of Rothsay, which was convened yesterday afternoon at the home of Miss Allison, at Rothsay, with Mrs. William S. Allison, the regent, presiding. The annual donation to the senior girls of the Consolidated school was continued, fifty dollars being granted, to be used as the girls shall vote, under the direction of the teachers of the school. Last year it was used for the Girl Guide Camp, and is awarded because of the kindly act of the senior girls who prepare cocoa during the cold weather for the small children, serve it to them, and wash the dishes afterwards at every noon hour.

Very little routine business was carried out, owing to the very interesting and well delivered report of Mrs. Cortlandt Robinson, who was sent to the Dominion convention by the I. O. D. E. to represent this province. Much pleasure was expressed at her kindness in favoring the Duke of Rothsay Chapter with her admirable address.

The Golden Grove school was decided upon as the one to which a library should be donated. Mrs. Allison and Mrs. John Davidson were the committee appointed and will go today to see the school and turn its requirements in regard to instructional charts, etc. along patriotic lines.

The chapter was obliged to change the day of their sale to the first day of December, which occurs on Friday, and will be held in Nixon's store, on King street. All who can will attend the memorial service on Armistice Day. Mrs. J. E. Angove was welcomed to the membership of the chapter.

### PRIVATE "DETECTIVE" HELD

Raymond Searies arrested on a charge of impersonating a police constable, wearing a badge and representing himself as a detective, was before the Magistrate yesterday morning and pleaded guilty. The Magistrate said that he was liable to a fine of \$100 or three months in jail, but that some inquiries would be made about him. Three or four years ago, the police say, Searies was arrested for a similar offense. The case will be resumed on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

### SPECIAL SELLING

TC-DAY

—OF—

HATS

—AT—

\$2.00

LARGE VARIETY

WANTED COLORS

WONDER VALUES

MARR MILLINERY

Co. Limited

Largest Vote But Not Majority

In case, as some observers anticipate, the Conservatives have the largest vote but not a majority, then some sort of working arrangement between Conservatives and Liberals would have to be drawn up to permit of the formation of a Government under the British system. The "menace of Socialism," as seen in the proposals of the Labor Party, has a tendency to drive these groups together but there is much to be overcome in making any close combination because of opposi-

## TELL OF LAST HOURS OF MISS MARY FRONTIN

Dr. S. H. McDonald and Detective Biddiscombe Testify as to What Occurred in Hospital—Case of Mrs. Parker Continued Until Monday.

The preliminary hearing in the case of Mrs. Bessie Parker, charged with the murder of Mary Emily Frontin, was resumed, but not finished yesterday afternoon in the police court. Dr. S. H. McDonald gave evidence and said that he had known Miss Frontin. On Monday evening, September 25, he had received a message at his office to call at the house of Mr. Frontin. The witness went to the house and was cofined to the girl's room by the father, who said that she had been sick about ten days. The counsel for the defence objected to the conversation between the witness and girl being submitted as evidence. The witness had asked the girl a few questions. He had found her pulse rapid and her skin moist, and had diagnosed the case to be one of septic poisoning following an operation. The witness had made out a hospital admittance slip. He had seen her the following morning in the hospital and again in the operation room.

### Detective Biddiscombe.

Detective Patrick Biddiscombe testified that at 11 o'clock on the morning of October 2nd he had been handed a warrant to serve on Mrs. Parker. In company with Detective Donahue he had gone to 17 Main street, and arrested the defendant. Mrs. Parker had been taken to the hospital. The witness, Superintendent Gale, Dr. Greighton, the Magistrate and accused had gone into the outdoor ward and had seen Miss Frontin. The Magistrate had taken a paper and had read it to the girl who signed it. Mrs. Parker was again taken to the hospital at 11:20 noon. The Magistrate was present. The defendant went to the foot of the bed occupied by the girl. In answer to a question, witness had heard the girl say, "sure," yes Judge.

At two o'clock that afternoon the witness, accompanied by Detective Donahue, visited the house at 17 Main street and had been met at the door by a woman, apparently the mother of the accused. They searched the house and found behind a board over the sink in the kitchen a knitting needle of stout steel about eight inches long. This was produced and handed to the Magistrate. A question as to whether the witness had thought that the deceased had understood the statement read by the Magistrate was objected to.

E. S. Ritchie appeared for the defence and E. J. Henneberry for the prosecution. The hearing was then postponed until 2:30 Monday afternoon.

### SOUTH END BOYS' CLUB

The boys of the South End were to the club last evening to get their membership tickets, preparatory to the formal opening which takes place next Tuesday evening. It was not possible to give out the seventy-five tickets provided, and only fifty-five were delivered. The rooms will be open on Friday evening at seven, so that the remainder may be allotted to the boys who will want to be at the opening of the South End Club. J. H. Hamilton, J. Stratton and A. E. Everett are the committee that have the serious business of installing members, whose ages are taken, with other data, that gives their membership a value. The leaders are looking forward to a very large enrolment as the season advances.

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## STATEMENT BY 'SHOREMEN'S UNION

To the Editor:  
Dear Sir:—  
In your issue of the 7th instant, you stated that there was a split in Labor Unions caused by the withdrawal of the delegates of the Longshoremen's Union from the Trades and Labor Council.

Now, Mr. Editor, we want to state to the public through the press the reason we, the Longshoremen, have withdrawn our delegates. In our opinion the Trades and Labor Council is no longer a labor body for which it was organized, but for the past 15 months it has been turned into a political machine, controlled by a few so-called labor men and as we are absolutely labor organization, pure and simple, with no political affiliations, our members voting individually and according to the dictates of their own consciences, are not at the beck and call of any political machine.

By Order of the Executive.  
A. CRAIG, President.  
JOHN MACKINNON, Business Agent.  
J. S. STEVENS, Vice-President.  
JOSEPH MONTEITH, Sec'y-Treas.

## C. P. R. PASSENGER TRAFFIC OVERSEAS TO BE HEAVY ONE

Canadian Pacific passenger traffic to and from British Isles and the continent of Europe and Canada, will be diverted from Montreal to this city the last of the month, according to the new schedule issued by the steamship officials. A large number of passengers bound home for Christmas are expected to sail from St. John. The first sailing from here will be the Tunisian for Glasgow and Liverpool. The winter sailing announcements of the C. P. R. M. are now in the hands of shippers and indicate that the government will maintain eight distinct ocean services with a fleet of twenty-two vessels. Thirteen ships will make St. John, their home port, and the remaining nine will run out of Halifax.

## IS ARRESTED FOR KILLING HUNTER

The mystery which surrounded the shooting of Fay Shannon, aged 25, who was found dead in a logging road at Bailey Lake, Aroostook Co., near the Carleton Co. border, has been cleared up by the confession of his hunting companion, Benjamin Sprague, that he had shot Shannon in mistake for a deer on Oct. 13. When he found that he had killed Shannon, Sprague said, he made up a story that Shannon was alone. After he signed the confession, Sprague was arrested and in the court at Houlton yesterday was held for trial.

### While cruising land at Big Lake, near Carleton Place, Sheldon Laughlin, a Canadian war veteran, had a close call. While about to climb over a stump a bullet whizzed by his head. The hunter who fired the shot was not located.

### BARNJUM FOREST

PRIZE AWARDED

The Barnjum prize of \$250.00 in cash, for the best municipal forest plantation in the Province of Quebec, has been awarded and paid to the Town of St. Jerome, Lake St. John. It is to be hoped that this may be the inauguration of a general tree planting campaign by all the municipalities throughout the whole Dominion of Canada.

## REV. W. TOMALIN IS APPOINTED SCHOOL HEAD

Rural Dean of Shediac May Go to Northwest, But Has Not Yet Decided to Accept Offer.

It is possible that still another Anglican rector may leave the diocese of Fredericton. Rev. W. Tomalin, rector of Shediac and rural dean of that deanery, has been requested to become principal of the largest Indian mission school in the Canadian northwest. He is asked to take charge of the institution on Jan. 1, if he decides to accept the appointment. He has not yet made known his decision. Rev. W. Tomalin is a native of Birmingham, England. He attended the Irish Church missionary training school in Dublin in 1892-93 and later the Moody Bible school in Chicago. He was graduated from Wycliffe College, Toronto, in 1910, and has had considerable experience in work among the Indians of Saskatchewan. After coming east he became rector of Trinity church, St. Stephen, going to the parish of Shediac in May, 1918.

## Died

WALSH—At 180 Market Place, West St. John, on November 8, Ellen, wife of Henry T. Walsh. Notice of funeral later.

## Funerals

The funeral of Miss Maud Ryan took place yesterday morning from 24 St. David St. to the Cathedral where Requiem High Mass was celebrated by Rev. R. Nugent. Relatives were pall bearers. The funeral was very largely attended and the floral tributes were numerous and beautiful. Interment in the new Catholic cemetery.

The Moncton Transcript, Tuesday, says: "Miss Ryan was very popular in Moncton. She was a member of the Riverview Golf Club and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. She had identified herself with the ladies' auxiliary work of St. Bernard's Church, and was active in every line of endeavor."

## Obituary

Mrs. Hannah Barnes. Mrs. Hannah Barnes of Saugus, Mass., a native of Bathurst, died suddenly on Nov. 6, at Barronsfield, near River Hochet. Her husband, Capt. John S. Barnes, died five years ago. A son and daughter survive.

Mrs. Mary Ann McDougall. Fort Fairfield, Me., Nov. 8.—Mary Ann Fisher, wife of the late Alexander McDougall, died at her home, Lower Village, Saturday night, after an illness of two weeks. She was born in Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 18, 1846.

Mrs. Florence J. Hanford. The death occurred at Medford, Mass., on Monday, of Mrs. Frances J.

Hanford. She was the widow of Charles P. Hanford, formerly a well known resident of St. John, son of the late Thomas T. Hanford, who was an auctioneer here, and brother of Mrs. Georgina Campbell, of Fredericton. The body will be brought here for interment today.

Mrs. Henry T. Walsh. Mrs. Ellen Walsh, wife of Henry T. Walsh of 180 Market Place, West St. John, died last evening.

Edward Farren. Edward Farren, formerly of St. John, died recently in Boston.

Capt. Fred H. Griffith. Relatives and friends here were shocked to learn of the death of Captain Fred H. Griffith, master of the government survey boat Lilovett, which occurred suddenly on board the vessel at Queen Charlotte City, B.C., recently. He was a native of Queens county and for several years resided out of this port as a deep sea captain. About fourteen years ago he moved to British Columbia, settling in Victoria, where he married Miss Grace Andrews. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Jack and Walter, at home, and three sisters, Mrs. J. F. Osborne, of East St. John, Mrs. Burton G. Holmes, of Amherst, and Mrs. Blair G. Carter, also of Nova Scotia.

Captain Griffith was in the employ of the federal government, in command of the Lilovett. He was talking to some friends on the wharf at Queen Charlotte City when he was stricken with apoplexy. He was carried aboard the boat and expired four hours later.

Capt. George Erb.

Many friends will regret to learn of the death of Captain George Erb, which occurred yesterday after a lingering illness. Although he had been in poor health for some time his condition was not considered serious until two days ago. He was a son of the late John Erb of Kars, Kings county, and was in the coasting trade practically all of his life. He retired from the sea about ten years ago. Besides his wife, he is survived by one son, Dr. Frank O. Erb, of Philadelphia; three brothers—Wellington and Isaac of this city, and Joseph of Gagetown; also two sisters—Mrs. William MacKinnon of Fredericton, and Mrs. J. R. Shaw of Kinckham. He was a respected member of Victoria street Baptist church and took an active interest in the church affairs until his health became impaired.

Mrs. Mary Balson. The death of an old time resident of St. John occurred recently in Dorchester, Mass., in the person of Mrs. Mary Balson, widow of J. B. Balson, who some fifty years ago conducted a hat and cap business in the old Pine building, this city. Mrs. Balson was a daughter of Conductor James Decker, one of the first conductors of the old intercolonial railway. Mrs. Balson is survived by two daughters, Miss Belle Balson and Mrs. A. Swallow; one son, John Balson, and one sister, Miss Hannah Decker, all of Boston.

W. Frank Rogers. W. Frank Rogers of No. 4 Moore street, died in the General Public Hospital yesterday morning after a long illness. He was aged 73 years. He is survived by his wife, Mr. Rogers was a carpenter by trade. He had lived for eight or ten years in Moncton, but came back to his native city a year or two ago. A funeral service was held last evening at the home.

While here, look at some of the other special values.

H. Mont. Jones, Ltd.

Exclusive Fur Designers

92 King Street



Blue Fox Furs  
Cost No More  
Than Dyed Fox

Now for a treat—the very first Blue Fox fur you have seen in years, brought straight from Siberia by a personal friend—and priced so low, you not only get it under whole sale, you have it for the same amount you'd pay for imitation.

Take a look in our window, see what you can have made up in any style of neck-piece or muff as well, in the furriest of all Foxes. The beautiful silver blues of this rarest of Arctic foxes, color tones that are without exaggeration gorgeous to look upon, and a fluffiness and warmth found only in this fur from the high North.

A neck-piece of color and character, made up the way you like it between \$75 and \$150 according to your preference—and at that a complete fur less than the old wholesale cost of the pelt—such is the exceptional offer made possible by our direct importation.

While here, look at some of the other special values.

H. Mont. Jones, Ltd.

Exclusive Fur Designers

92 King Street



FREE  
GIRLS AND BOYS

We told you on Monday that we would help you to get your Xmas presents FREE this year.

You can get

A Watch, A Sled or  
A Fountain Pen

This will give you some idea just what kind of a Watch you can get—a full size watch just like Dad's.

Other interesting particulars will be announced shortly.

Keep on the watch for announcements in the

THE DAILY JOURNAL

SOON

