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LIFE IN MEXICO.

Mexican life and justice have been illustrated by George I. Ham, of Napanee, in his own painful experience. He failed in the banking business, as others have done, when he assumed great financial obligations without training, and he was cast into a Mexican prison. Here he had some comforts, living according to the privileges of a prisoner of distinction, but he was submitted to indignities which were unknown to a British court.

Ham was tried in his absence. He did not hear the charges laid against him. He was not allowed any defence, either in person or through counsel. He had to endure imprisonment without limit, accepting the promise of release from time to time, knowing that such promises were not seriously made. Meanwhile the estate of the banking corporation, of which he was president, was being plundered by the alleged curators, and without any reference to him or his wishes.

Such is Mexican life and law! Such the country which has been governed or misgoverned by successive parties coming into office through revolutions. The Huerta dynasty holds office because of its power, but the time is coming when it will be replaced by another party and whose policy is one of usurpation.

LABOUR TROUBLES IN CANADA.

The Lemieux act is not being used in Canada to any purpose. Some strikes, which have been on for weeks, are still on, and nothing is being done to settle them. The minister of labour took his law partner from St. Thomas to British Columbia, and this law partner will write a flowery report of what he saw and experienced. But the strike goes on and the report will not finish it.

What has become of the conciliation or mediation which Mr. Mackenzie King exercised to so great an advantage? Why should an act, which was so instrumental in settling labour difficulties under one government, become useless and inoperative under another? That is the question of the hour.

The Erdman Act, which has been called into play in the great railway strike in the United States—the act which is likely to lead to peace—is based upon the Lemieux Act, and was projected after the former minister of labour in Canada had gone to the United States and explained its application in Canada. Strange, is it not, that the initiation article should be found so useful and efficacious while the original article remains unused and ineffective. The cause? The men now in office do not know what to do with it.

OFFENSE TO CANADIANS.

The Hon. Mackenzie King has been accused by the Toronto Telegram because he has called attention to a manifest impropriety, namely, the decoration of a British army inspector with a badge at a political picnic, and his impressment into the service of the conservative party as a speaker. The Hon. Mr. King has not done a small or disdainful act in calling attention to his act; on the contrary he has performed a public service, and one which should be followed by the matter being referred, as it is hoped it will be, to the war department of the British government. It may be that Sir Ian Hamilton will have the very excuse which Mr. King outlines, namely, that he was accompanied in his tour of inspection by Col. Sam Hughes, that the minister of militia, became his entertainer at all times, and that on the occasion

of the Ward Four conservative picnic he became the inspecting officer's mentor. He suggested the picnic as a diversion. He probably decorated Sir Ian with a badge and probably forced him to make a speech. Which does not mitigate the offence one iota. Sir Ian had no business at a political picnic, and he certainly had no business to make a speech, no matter how indiscreet and insistent the minister of militia might be. At any rate the Whig hopes the imperial government will be asked for an explanation of this performance of an imperial officer, and in advance one can imagine what this explanation will be.

CONDITIONS IN THE WEST.

Are the times really hard in the west? The minister of labour has crossed it, in a private car, has inspected the country from the car window, has seen the golden grain advancing to maturity, and realized the great riches which the crops represent. He has halted in some of the cities lying between Ontario and the coast and finds dullness in them, but not the distress which some people talk about.

One fears that Mr. Crothers has not used his eyes to very great advantage because the west would not be crying out in its distress without a cause. On a recent occasion the Whig quoted the Moose Jaw Times as declaring that the west had not seen times so dull since the eighties, and then there was a crisis of the most serious kind. While the Edmonton Bulletin, the Saskatoon Phoenix, and the Lethbridge News minimize the situation, and regard the candid critic as an enemy of the people, the Calgary News-Telegram discusses the situation in an open and fearless way.

Public works—that is necessary civic improvements—have been halted for want of funds in several places. The money market will become easier when the crops begin to move, for there is cash enough for them, but in the meantime the News-Telegram thinks the federal government should come to the relief of Alberta with a loan of at least a million dollars. Saskatchewan could use a similar amount advantageously, and so could Manitoba in which there is not evidence of depression.

Perhaps the severest criticism of all is that of the Financial Times, of Montreal, which sharply calls the finance minister to account for shipping millions of dollars out of the country, in payment of the public debt, while every dollar of it is in demand in Canada. Perhaps too much is being collected from the people, but the changes in the tariff cannot be made now, and the public debt must be paid. During recess the whole national plan of financing cannot be changed, and the Financial Times should realize this.

Money is wanted, great heaps of it, to complete the wonderful works begun in a period of expansion, and it cannot be had at present.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hamar Greenwood, M.P., and British journalist, goes to the coast in Col. Sam Hughes' car. The minister of militia will not suffer any in Mr. Greenwood's estimation in consequence.

What a pity it is that the reunion of the Princess of Wales' Own Rifles did not go on according to the original plan? Some of the old boys were looking forward to it. It would have been the event of the year of grace, 1913.

Some of the old boys who came home were disappointed. Beyond the meeting at the city hall there was no programme which would call them out and bring them together for a social hour. Fewer visits and more life in their visits is the cure.

For mercy's sake! Here's the delegates to a convention at St. John's, Newfoundland, welcomed by the mayor and aldermen, both Roman Catholics. Supposed to have no use for each other religiously, and fraternizing. The way it should be, all talk to the contrary notwithstanding.

Another delusion, indeed, when Lloyd-George taxed the drink traffic, and taxed it heavily, some people thought it was struck a bad blow. But the consumption of liquor and the freight upon it seems to have grown. Apparently the liquor trade is something which thrives upon abuse and adversity. It cannot be killed.

A tip to the preachers. Don't apologize on Sunday for the sparseness of your ideas because this is vacation time. Ideas grow in the warm weather as well as the cool, and can be got together with a little energy. Other people have to keep things moving. Why not the preachers? And the people need toning up in the holiday season more than any other time.

The Ottawa Journal disapproves of old boys' reunions. It had one a few years ago. It was a decided "frot." The old boys did not materialize. The whole proceedings were a farce. So the Journal con-

cludes these reunions suit the small places, not a place like Ottawa. Indeed? So the sons of Ottawa are glad to get away and never to go back? Its an uncommon experience.

PUBLIC OPINION.

An Angel. Detroit Free Press. A Chicago evangelist described the perfect husband as one who is home five nights a week with his wife. What then is the husband who is at home seven nights a week?

Can Still Shoot. Ottawa Journal. A Toronto man has won the king's prize at Bisley, the blue ribbon of the empire for rifle shooting. Perhaps we can't play tennis or row but praise be, we can still shoot.

Men Won't Vote. Hamilton Times. We are told that many women who have the vote do not vote. The same can be said of the men. In the celebrated North Grey election only about one-half the electors voted.

A Real Discovery. Toronto Globe. The microbes of rheumatism has been discovered, and we may have a serum at any time. The honor goes to a French scientist if his statements are verified.

The Next Election. Halifax Morning Chronicle. Mr. Borden does not want an election—that goes without saying. He knows too well what he has to expect from it. But delay is far from likely to make matters better for him. The spectre of hard times is already before him. Therefore, an early election is to be looked for. And when it comes it will be sprung without an hour's warning. It is for liberals to be ready.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

The Kingston Baseball Club gave a sum of money to help the Orphans' Home. R. J. Ellbeck made the contribution, on behalf of the club.

It is stated that fifty desertions have occurred from "A" battery since the beginning of the year. Members of the medicine camp, Cartwright's Point, are having an immense time. They are Ald. Adams, F. C. and T. Wade, P. Walsh, J. M. McIntyre and T. Farrell. Visitors are treated in grand style. "A" battery entertained the patients of Rockwood hospital, today, for several hours. Cataract lodge, No. 10, I.O.O.F., met to say farewell to R. Gage, P.G., removing to Riverside, Cal. Bro. J. S. B. McManis, P.G., on behalf of the lodge, presented him with a gold locket and an address.

What Tories Did Not Do. Brockville Recorder. A great number of tory orators addressed Orange meetings all over Canada during the past week. A careful perusal of their speeches fails to show one in which reference was made to the fact that before last election the tory workers throughout Ontario gave whispered promises that if Mr. Borden were returned to power, the first thing he would do would be to rush through parliament a uniform marriage law, and if this were found unconstitutional, Mr. Borden would immediately change the constitution so as to get it through. Not a single tory orator was manly enough to say that Mr. Borden did nothing of the sort. Not a single tory orator was man enough to say the result showed the Laurier government in the right of the matter, and that the Borden campaign whippersnappers had deliberately deceived the people in order to get their support. Not a single tory orator had the decency to say that when the Lancaster uniform marriage bill was introduced into parliament shortly after his first session opened, it was Mr. Borden himself who killed it.

Killed Him of Course. A Bostonian was showing a British visitor the sights of the Hub. They were driving past Bunker Hill Monument. Not wishing to make any pointed reference to the fact that at one time we had been fighting with our cousins, the Boston gentleman merely indicated the monument with his thumb and said: "Bunker Hill."

The Englishman looked at the hill intently, and asked: "Who was Bunker, and what did he do to the hill?" "You don't understand," said the Bostonian. "This is where Warren fell."

The Englishman screwed his monocle into his eye, leaned back, and, looking at the top of the towering shaft, remarked enquiringly: "Killed him, of course?"

The Government in Danger. Ottawa Citizen. Municipalities are at present crippled by provincial conservatism and lack of consent to municipal progressiveness. For example, there are many cities in Ontario where it is desired that improvements shall be partially exempted from taxation, and a larger share of municipal revenue be taken from land values. But it is impossible that this wise and popular reform be carried into effect, for the simple reason that a man occupies the position of premier whose face is set against innovation and progress. The result is that Ottawa and many other cities must forego the satisfaction and profit of their same progressiveness. By all means municipal rights should be enlarged.

A Tamed Leader. Edmonton Capital. Mr. Borden is a very much tamed man. He is only too glad to wait and deliberate on some method of avoiding the impending storm which will burst upon him in fury and disaster when the Canadian electors are given the chance to express their opinion at the polls regarding his government.

Benjamin Reed, notorious pick-pocket, was released on his own recognizance at Toronto, and has done money.

Wise and : : Otherwise

Many a man's cordial handshake is due to the fact that he needs that dollar in your pocket.

If an old soldier's story doesn't line up with history he blames it on the historian, who probably wasn't there.

After a man reads a newspaper joke that appeals to his sense of humor he is anxious to make an after dinner speech for the purpose of ringing it in.

Any girl will cheerfully give up a dollar to a fortune teller in exchange for the information that she is going to be married within a year.

Minister's Mission. "That's a nice looking fellow who's just come in," said the young man who was dining with his best girl. "Is he a friend of yours?" "Yes, indeed. I know him well," laughed the maiden. "Call I ask him to join us?" "Oh, George!" said the girl, blushing. "This is so sudden." "Sudden? What do you mean?" he asked, in surprise. "Why—why, that's our minister." —Exchange.

When Love Is Young. Mr. Borden does not want an election—that goes without saying. He knows too well what he has to expect from it. But delay is far from likely to make matters better for him. The spectre of hard times is already before him. Therefore, an early election is to be looked for. And when it comes it will be sprung without an hour's warning. It is for liberals to be ready.



"So you and Jack don't speak." "We had a dreadful quarrel about which loved the other most."

A Different Ending. "Had quite an adventure lately. I gave an old gentleman my seat in a street car and he insisted on taking my card."

"And how he wants to give you \$25,000, eh?" "No; now he wants to sell me an encyclopedia on dollar payments." —Kansas City Journal.

Modern Life. "John, you'll kill yourself smoking." "Never mind, my dear. For 15,000 coupons the tobacco company will provide you with a new husband." —Kansas City Journal.

A Jilt. Jack taught a girl to swim. Then raised an awful row because the girl told Jim. She wished she knew how. —Kansas City Journal.

Helpful. "These magazines are so helpful." "What's the latest?" "Here in the home hints they tell you how to make a lovely outrageous boom out of an old tomato can." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Got Up and Rested. "Good morning, Uncle Charles. Did you sleep well? I'm afraid your bed was rather hard and uneven, but—" "Oh, it was all right, thank you. I got up now and then during the night and rested a bit, you know."

Self-Evident. He—"As I was saying, Miss Maymie, when I start out to do a thing I stay on the job. I'm no quitter." "She (with a weary yawn)—Don't I know it!" —Baltimore American.

But Not to Hal. This is the weather when the ice cream brick Appeals to Maude and May and Sade and Sal. Whose escorts learn that the arithmetic Was right in saying "Four qts. to one gal." —Cleveland Plaindealer.

The Age of Woman. "May I ask you how old your wife is?" "Certainly; you may ask her, too, if you wish." —Houston Post.

"So," said the lady of uncertain age, "he said he knew me when I was a little girl?" "He didn't say anything of the sort," contradicted the man. "You said he did."

"Why? Then what did you say?" "I said he said he knew you when he was a little boy."

The Reason. Muggins—I wonder why Dolly Dashaway is so popular. Buggins—She's one of those girls a fellow feels he can propose to without any serious danger of being accepted.

The Alarming Feature. Professor—Doesn't it make you sad to see women wearing feathers of the poor little birds on their hats? Married Man—It isn't the feathers that make me sad—it's their bills! —London Opinion.

Her Comment. "The Greens are going to Europe for the summer?" "Isn't it awful what people will do to let other people know they've got money?"

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