

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Friday, Jan. 24, 1913.

DOMINION NAVIES ON THE PACIFIC.

Premier Fisher of Australia has publicly, on behalf of that Commonwealth, expressed the sympathy of his government with the idea of holding a conference with this Dominion, subsidiary to the next Imperial conference in London, and offered to send representatives to a meeting if one could be arranged in Canada. There is no good reason why such a conference should not be held, and should not be the first of a long series of such meetings for the discussion of defence and other problems interesting to both countries.

Among these problems is one specified by Mr. Fisher in his address: "Unity of purpose for naval defence in the North and South Pacific." The mere mention of such a subject of discussion is sufficient to show the untenableness of the position into which the Borden government has drifted on the question of Canada's part in the defence of the Empire. The Borden policy is to make Great Britain a present of three gigantic battleships—floating fortresses specially adapted for coast defence and to be used only in the German Ocean against a possible but improbable attack by a similarly ponderous but numerically inferior German fleet. That policy makes absolutely no provision for the protection of Dominion or Imperial interests in the Pacific Ocean: the very feature that is most outstanding in the Australian government's policy. In the speech above cited Premier Fisher affirms that the co-operation of Canada with Australia for defence in the Pacific Ocean is "most desirable." In view of his position, and of the definitely adopted policy of an "Australian navy for Australia," there can be nothing worthy of the name of co-operation until we adopt in this country the policy of a "Canadian navy for Canadians."—Toronto Globe.

THOMAS LAWSON AND THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

Thomas Lawson, the well known American authority on high finance, thinks that if the stock exchange could be curbed the people of the United States would be freed from many of the evils that now afflict them. And he believes that the stock exchange can be curbed, and in a very simple way. He proposes an amendment to the lottery law, which, he says, might be passed at a single session of Congress, de-

claring that the stock exchange must do business in a certain way, and ordering the post office authorities to bar the mail from stock exchanges which do not transact their business according to the rules. Gambling is against public policy; but the gambling end of the stock exchange, he contends, is bigger than all other forms of gambling in the country. It should be wiped out by law, and it may be wiped out, he says, as easily as the old Louisiana lottery was wiped out. With the stock exchange under the complete control of the Federal government all things necessary to be done to destroy the high cost of living could, he contends, be done. Whatever else may be said of Mr. Thomas Lawson, he is a fascinating writer, and he is certainly not lacking in courage. Apparently, too, he is not without personal knowledge of his subject when he discusses stock exchange gambling. He confesses that ever since he began to play the "game" on a large scale he has made not less than a million a year out of the Wall Street gamble. Whether such a confession will help to re-establish him in the confidence of the people, in view of past experiences, is, however, another question.

WESTMINSTER IS NOW THE CITY OF THE GOOD

Fruit Stores and Candy Stores Must Close on Sundays—Drug Stores Closely Watched

New Westminster, Jan. 22—Sunday closing among fruit stands, candy stores and cigar selling stands in the city became effective yesterday and the police are keeping a watchful eye on all establishments. For some time these places have kept open under the guise of a restaurant license, but the new trades license by-law eliminated the possibility of running on Sunday under that subterfuge.

Effort will also be made to prohibit drug stores selling anything but actual drugs and medicines on the Sabbath hereafter. Should they attempt to do so a lively fight is expected with the drug store proprietors.

"This poem was written by a prominent lawyer of this city. Has it any value?"

"About as much value," said the editor, "as a legal opinion by a poet."

Find it through a Daily News "Want Ad."

HOME RULE BILL IS LIKELY TO BECOME LAW

IN VIEW OF THE MAJORITY OBTAINED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS A WAY WILL BE FOUND TO CIRCUMVENT THE LORDS.

(Special to The Daily News.) London, Jan. 22.—The Asquith government has got the home rule bill through its last stages of the House of Commons by an overwhelming majority, a majority, it must be remarked, that would still have reached fifty or more had every Irish, Tory and Nationalist member abstained from voting and allowed Great Britain alone to decide the fate of the bill.

With so clear a mandate on the measure and in the present disorganized condition of the Unionist party, there is no visible reason why it should not become law during the life of the present Parliament. Of course the bill will be thrown out in the House of Lords. Equally, of course, if the present state of affairs continues, it will be passed, and re-passed as many times as necessary by the House of Commons, between now and the end of the present Parliament, something more than a year hence. There is time to spare for the working by Parliament of an act by which the home rule bill can be made into law, despite the objections of the Lords.

Three months ago this did not seem possible, indeed. It hardly seemed possible last October that the home rule bill would reach its final stage in the House of Commons before the country was thrown into a general election by the defeat of the government, but in the last three months the Unionist party has contributed invaluable support to the home rule cause by the needless discussions to which it allowed itself to fall a prey.

At present Lord Lansdowne and, particularly, Bonar Law are among the greatest of the coalition's assets, both through the fact of their relinquishment of principles which they so earnestly and vehemently declared would never be dropped, and by the manner of their relinquishment. It would be hard to conceive anything better calculated to chill the ardor of the political protagonists than the manner of acceptance by Lord Lansdowne and Bonar Law, by the condition laid down that they should drop food taxes from the Unionist programme and their frigid and unenthusiastic consent to continue in the position as alleged leaders. This situation among the Unionists seems to be a vital point of success for home rule.

Much is made in a spectacular way of the opposition to the bill.

There is considerable talk of armed rebellion in the north of Ireland, but for all the flamboyant speeches now being made this is not yet, at any rate, a problem to be taken seriously.

The great question is whether the government will be able to hold together the many considerably divergent sections of its majority now that the great crisis has been successfully passed.

Walter Runciman, president of the Board of Agriculture, has made quite a stride in this direction this week in the development of the government's policy for the distribution of land among the small holders.

One of the most important features of the work, one in fact without which success could not be hoped for, has been that of

providing small farmers and other small holders of land with money with which to carry on their business, and also to provide means by which prospective purchasers of tenements could get the necessary capital to take up their allotments.

This has now been accomplished through a scheme by which a number of large banks, with branches in all parts of the country, will virtually enter into partnership with co-operative societies. By this scheme the farmer, instead of going to the bank and undertaking to persuade the manager that a certain loan is a proper one, will get the money from a co-operative society, the bank making only one loan to the society in a sum large enough to cover the small needs of the members of the society. The whole community thus becomes responsible for the debts of each of its members, while the banks take an active part in the management of the affairs of the co-operative society, and have a most important place on the advisory council of each. Thus, although Lloyd-George's land campaign has again been abandoned, the government has taken another step forward in its general scheme for advancing the interests of small holders and non-capitalists.

OPERATOR MURDERED AT HIS TELEGRAPH KEY

San Bernardino, Cal., Jan. 23.—Huddled over his desk, a lifeless hand gripping his key, the body of night telegraph operator George Cox, a bullet hole through his head, was found Saturday at Santa Fe station at Summit, 28 miles northeast of San Bernardino. A shattered window pane indicated that the bullet which ended his life had been fired

from outside the station. Notification of the supposed murder was brought here by Conductor Golden, of a freight train which stopped at Summit for orders. Golden did not wait to find whether the station safe had been rifled.

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THE AFTERMATH

Usually the day following Christmas brings with it unpleasant recollections of friends who have been inadvertently overlooked in the matter of Christmas gifts. Isn't it fortunate that New Year's Day follows so closely and gives us an opportunity to make amends for our oversights during the Christmas rush. While the past week's shopping made very heavy inroads into our stock, the assortments in each line are practically unbroken. We have a large range of beautiful things for New Year's gifts. CONSULT OUR CATALOGUE.

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