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POLITICAL CANDOR

By daring to be unpopular with her supporters, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Britain's first woman cabinet minister, has set an example in political courage which many a male politician will view with dismay, says the Winnipeg Tribune.

It will be recalled that some time ago Miss Bondfield, in her official capacity as Minister of Labor, announced that mill girls and others out of employment who refuse to accept the jobs everywhere waiting for them in domestic service would be disqualified from receiving unemployment benefit. That Miss Bondfield meant what she said is evident in a recent decision under which a number of unemployed Lancashire girls have been disallowed benefits for refusing to accept domestic service jobs offering to them.

Such decision has aroused considerable resentment against the Minister of Labor. She is charged with advocating "conscript labor," with betraying the class from which she comes, of having her ideals of social justice blunted by contact with employers, and all the rest of it.

Assailed in such manner many politicians and most cabinet ministers would either at once give in, or at least attempt to explain that they had never meant what they appeared to have said. But not Margaret Bondfield. She has briefly replied that she holds to her decision, and that if it has made her unpopular, unpopular she must remain.

This is an example of political courage and honesty much needed at a time when so many politicians are outbidding each other in cajoling the electorate. But it is a question whether Miss Bondfield's "unpopularity" will continue very long. It is one of the encouraging things about the working of democracy that the few who speak their minds frankly and fully without fear of the consequences to themselves are invariably taken back into public esteem.

Popularity, like happiness, seldom lasts for the man or woman who sets out deliberately to seek it. This applies to politics. Democracy is not fooled for long by the smooth speeches, promises and bribes showered upon it by plausible politicians with their eyes on the next election.

SOCIALISM DISCUSSED

Rev. C. E. Motte Speaker at Meeting Last Night in Salvation Army Citadel

Over fifty men were present at the Salvation Army Citadel last night to hear Rev. Charles E. Motte, pastor of Rupert East United Church, deliver an interesting address on the topic of "Christ and Socialism."

Commandant William Kerr presided and a musical program included community singing and vocal solos by Moses Alexcee, Mrs. Emil Carlson and Louis Pitcher.

Commandant Kerr awarded proficiency certificates to Corps Cadets Edward Harmon and France Pierce.

The proceedings came to a close with serving of coffee and doughnuts, these refreshments being appreciated by all present.

Twenty Years Ago

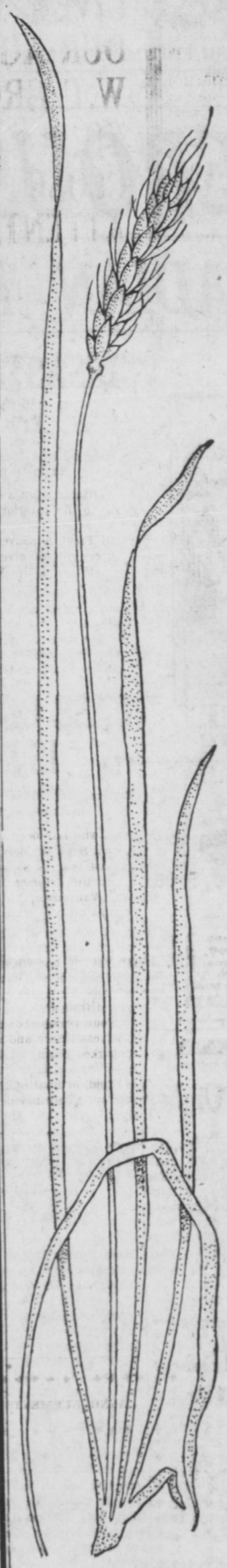
In Prince Rupert

January 30, 1911

Fire this morning completely destroyed a two-storey boarding house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Haudenschild on Third Avenue about two blocks east of McBride Street. The fire started in the room of a lodger who lit a fire to cook his own breakfast. The structure was soon a mass of flames and other lodgers, newly awakened, had narrow escapes with their lives.

Mah Ling, a Chinaman, was slugged last night on Comox Avenue and lost his roll of $45. He claims to have been assaulted by two men who jumped out of the shadows as he passed by.

Rev. F. W. Kerr preached a sensational sermon last night on the social evil before the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in the Empress Theatre.



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MEN HOLD BANQUET

Annual Anglican Event Proves Very Successful In Cathedral Hall

The annual men's banquet of the Anglican Church was held last night in the Parish Hall, Mayor Orme presiding, and it proved very successful. The banquet, prepared by the members of the woman's auxiliary was excellent and the entertainment well above the average. There was plenty of light humor and also a serious vein provided by Rev. Canon Rushbrook and Dean Gibson which gave it that proper balance.

Regret was expressed by Mayor Orme and the other speakers at the enforced absence of Bishop Rix, which was deeply regretted. The Bishop always took the deepest interest in these events which he had initiated years ago. The Mayor said it seemed too bad that the Bishop should have travelled so far safely only to return home and be knocked down in the street.

Rev. Canon Rushbrook spoke of the church as being the greatest power in the world for good. He did not refer to the denomination to which he belonged or to the church organizations generally but to that which, for the past two thousand years had stood for idealism in art, literature, ethics and social advancement. It was a spiritual thing, the relation of man to his God and the relations of men to each other. The men and the buildings were simply the outward manifestations.

Dean Gibson opened in a light vein leading up to a serious talk to members of the congregation on such matters as religious conviction and tything. He deprecated the tendency toward material things and gave as the seven most important factors in the world today the Bible, the church, the home, the Sabbath School, the law and the press. There was a tendency to turn the back on God. While there was a great deal of talk of the brotherhood of man, this was ineffective without the fatherhood of God.

The program follows:

Toast—"The King" (with musical honors).

Chairman's address.

Community singing—Led by F. Bradshaw.

Song—Mrs. J. H. McLeod.

Song—A. R. Hunter.

Recitation—Miss Beryl Birch and Miss Adela Thurber from "The School For Scandal."

Song—R. Bradshaw, "Glorious Devon."

Toast—"Our Church," proposed by Canon Rushbrook, responded to by Dean Gibson.

Song—Mrs. C. L. Monroe.

Sketch—"The Parson," Alec Connon.

Toast—"The Ladies," proposed by Chas. Evitt, responded to by Alex Rix.

Closing remarks by chairman.

Doxology.

Mrs. T. Andrew was convener for the supper. The committee in charge of tables consisted of: Mrs. J. B. Gibson, Mrs. A. T. Parkin, Mrs. Geo. Rorie and Mrs. Bazett-Jones. Those helping were: Mrs. W. A. Woodland, Mrs. Alex Rix, Mrs. Parlow, Mrs. Trelevan, Mrs. J. P. Cade, Mrs. J. Johns, Mrs. C. C. Mills, Mrs. Hinton, Mrs. C. Evitt, Mrs. J. Nichols, Mrs. Rayner, Mrs. W. C. Aspinall, Mrs. Russell Smith, Mrs. Wm. McCallum, Mrs. Elliot Homer, Mrs. W. J. Greer, Mrs. W. A. McLean, Mrs. E. W. Tucker, Mrs. Stamp-Vincent, Mrs. S. V. Cox and Mrs. Smeeton.

INFLUENZA SPREADING

Epidemic in Europe Mild But Persistent—120 Dead in Spain

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Influenza has been spreading rapidly over Europe during the past two weeks and, although it is generally of a mild type, the epidemic shows no indication of abatement.

The most serious report came from Spain where 120 persons are reported to have died in the past week.

In London, many firms are running with skeleton staffs.

A. W. Lipsin sailed last night for the Prince George for a trip to Vancouver, and elsewhere in the south.